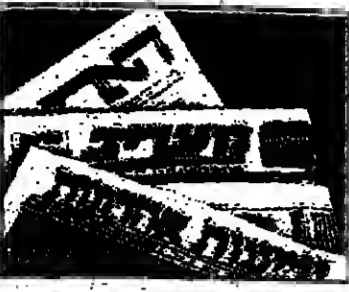


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Barak: I'm no dictator

By LIAT COLLINS

Following the Labor faction executive meeting in the Knesset yesterday, which was so emotional that MK Yael Dayan described it as "group psychotherapy," party leader Ehud Barak publicly rejected claims by some Labor MKs that he is acting like a dictator and refuses to consult with them.

Although he said the MKs have no reason to be concerned, he did not state that a steering committee would be established as many of the MKs are demanding, saying only that "The matter will be considered."

He said he was not surprised, or concerned, by the force of the party reactions.

"There is no room for any real fears of a dictatorship or of one man taking control of the Labor Party. Labor is a party with a long and broad tradition of democracy and with well-established institutions and apparatus which sometimes even slow down the decision-making process but definitely don't shorten them when it comes to democratic procedures," he said.

He noted that at present he is acting as party secretary-general and temporarily holds other party functions.

"As a result it is impossible to meet as some of the members would probably like. I have no doubt that these matters will be settled. I have no problem with them... In a democratic party, criticism is not a problem."

He left no doubt about what he sees as Labor's goal.

"Our true goal is to replace Netanyahu's government," he said. "Our main task is not just to internally reorganize the party but to go out to the public. I was elected to lead the party in the public arena and towards electoral victory."

Barak said his new priorities include promoting free education, the status of women, immigrant absorption and civilian or military national service for all.

The Labor faction meeting yesterday focused on the crisis in the health system.

Outside the faction room, Hagai Merom, who along with Uri Baran, seems to be spearheading the campaign against Barak, told reporters: "There are those in the party who feel it is being neglected." Merom has been upset with Barak since he failed to be appointed secretary-general.

Ophir Pines said he is "very dissatisfied with what's going on in the party and with some of the things Barak himself is doing."

See BARAK, Page 5



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, flanked by his wife, Kochava, and an unidentified Turkish officer, leaves the mausoleum of modern Turkey's founder Kemal Ataturk in Ankara yesterday, after a wreath-laying ceremony. (AP)

Defense ties with Turkey bolstered

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

ANKARA — Israeli and Turkish defense ties, which have been strengthened, as Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's visit here paved the way for lucrative weapons contracts and won a commitment to deeply enhance the strategic alliance between the two countries.

Faced with a similar missile threat as Israel, Turkey is interested in acquiring the Homa anti-ballistic missile defense system, including the Arrow missile, Turkish and Israeli defense sources said.

"We are surrounded by regimes with various problems. Israel and Turkey are two islands of stability which must be preserved together," Turkish Chief of General Staff Gen. Ismail Karadayi told Mordechai.

"There are lots of issues where we can cooperate. We are fully satisfied with the military and defense industry cooperation between us. There will always be nations against our cooperation, but we are interested in deepening and strengthening it," he said.

Mordechai, the first Israeli defense minister to visit Turkey, replied to Karadayi that Israel was willing to share with it advanced weapons technology to combat the joint threats.

"When we lock hands, we form a

powerful fist," Mordechai said.

Ankara was shrouded in a chilly drizzle yesterday, but Mordechai found warmth among Turkey's top leaders. After laying a wreath at the tomb of modern Turkey's founder, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, Mordechai met with Defense Minister Ismet Sezgin. He later traveled to the parliament for a meeting with Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz.

The visit takes place in the shadow

of quite some time now and we have welcomed in particular the cooperation that's developed between Turkey and Israel," State Department spokesman James Foley told reporters yesterday.

Foley would not comment on the declaration expected to be issued in Teheran denouncing the cooperation.

Mordechai repeatedly stressed throughout the day that the defense cooperation between Israel and Turkey was not directed at any third party. Sezgin echoed this.

"I am very happy with the development of the relations between the two countries," Sezgin said. "And I especially want to note that the military cooperation, the joint maneuvers and defense industry cooperation are not directed at anyone."

Mordechai said that the current upgrade by Israel of 54 Turkish Air Force F-4 jets was on schedule, noting that the cash-flow problems at Israel Aircraft Industries had been solved. Israel is the leading contractor to upgrade 48 F-5 jets in a deal worth about \$100 million, Mordechai told reporters.

Israel also is offering to upgrade Turkey's aging M-60 battle tanks, and sell Turkey UAVs, anti-tank missiles, the air-to-ground Popeye missile and the Gall assault rifle.

Turkey faces a growing missile threat not only from Iran and Syria, but also from Greek Cyprus, which is planning to buy S-300 anti-aircraft missiles, which Turkish officials claim can be converted to ground-to-ground missiles.

Turkish defense officials said they were keen on the Arrow missile and that it was agreed in principle to jointly produce it. Israeli defense officials confirmed this, but stressed negotiations were not yet at an operable stage and that Washington needed to approve any deals since the US provides the lion's share of the Arrow's development costs.

Mordechai dismissed fears that advanced Israeli weapons technology could find itself in hostile hands, saying that top-of-the-line weapons could be bought elsewhere, and if Israel sold the weapons it could have better control over them.

The Turkish-Israeli strategic talks, which take place every six months, are to be held late December in Ankara.

Israel, Turkey and the US are slated to conduct joint naval maneuvers in January. According to the *Turkish Daily News*, the five-day rescue exercise, dubbed "Reliant Mermaid," will begin on January 5.

Hillel Kuttler contributed to this report.

Israel, Turkey bound by common interests, Page 2

ow of the Islamic conference in Teheran, which is expected to condemn the Turkish-Israeli relationship.

In Washington, meanwhile, the State Department welcomed Turkish-Israeli statements on military cooperation, saying they demonstrate Israel's continued integration in the Middle East.

"We think that Israel's integration into the region is part and parcel of what we think needs to happen in order for there to be an overall settlement of the Middle East problem. So that's something that obviously we've been encouraging

Islamic summit opens today

Biggest int'l gathering in Iran since revolution

By DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

The three-day summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference that begins today brings together delegates from more than 50 nations of Africa, Europe, Asia and the Arab world.

This summit is the biggest international gathering in Teheran since the 1979 revolution.

Iran's hosting of the summit is part of an attempt to improve ties with neighboring countries and to undermine the US-led Gulf War coalition, according to senior Haifa University lecturer Dr. Yair Hirschfeld.

"It is also an attempt to put an end to America's dual containment policy vis-a-vis Iraq and Iran," said Hirschfeld, a leading expert on superpower involvement in the Middle East.

Hirschfeld said he was less concerned with the resolutions that may be passed at the summit, and more with the general tone of the three-day event.

splendid isolation, and that's no joke," he said.

"This is likely to create new dynamics in the region that could, for a variety of reasons, lead to greater radicalism even closer to us, which would be very dangerous."

"An opening of doors towards Iran and an increasing isolation of Israel is also not good for Israel's peace partners, Egypt and Jordan, which don't want terror or war."

"The tendency to go backwards on the peace process only serves to undermine the pragmatists and strengthen the radicals — as can be seen in the increased support for Hamas in the past few weeks — which in turn could lead to the creation of a new vicious circle of violence," he concluded.

Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah was among the first to arrive in Teheran, the first visit by a high-ranking Saudi leader since the revolution.

His visit follows almost a year of diplomatic efforts to improve ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter.

Other arrivals included Sheikh Jaber Sabah of Kuwait, a foe of Iran during its 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Iraq sent its vice president, Taha Yassio Ramadan.

He joins Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed Sahhaf in the highest-ranking Iraqi delegation to visit Teheran since the Gulf War.

President Elias Hrawi of Lebanon, a Christian, arrived with a delegation that included his Muslim prime minister, Rafik Hariri.

Still, there were some prominent no-shows: Egypt's Hosni Mubarak; for example, decided just days earlier to stay away.

The summit follows a two-day meeting of Muslim foreign ministers, who approved 140 resolutions for the meeting.

The ministers condemned military cooperation with Israel, in a slap at Turkey.

But with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt and other American allies present, the delegates stopped short of denouncing US policies.

Teheran's diplomatic comeback, Page 6

"The Gulf coalition, with Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and the Arab Gulf States, was reinforced by the Oslo Accords and the peace process in general," he said.

"The peace process had a major stabilizing effect which is now falling apart, and the long-standing Syrian-Iranian cooperation is creating a very dangerous double game, in which they can both play either the pragmatic or radical roles."

Hirschfeld, one of the architects of the Oslo Accords, noted that Iran had been neutralized by the Gulf War coalition, and had remained isolated because of its radical, fundamentalist stance.

"The danger now, as I see it, is that Iran is seeking legitimacy and is opening up its doors to its neighbors and even to the US, while our government is leading us with enormous speed into

Belly dancer sues Bassiouny for NIS 1m.

The belly dancer who earlier this year, accused Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny of attempted rape, filed a suit against him yesterday in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court for NIS 1 million in damages. She claimed that her life was destroyed by the alleged attack and the state attorney's decision to dismiss her charges.

The belly dancer is suing both Bassiouny and Dr. Yehoshafat Shulman, saying her reputation was ruined after she filed an assault complaint against the ambassador. She said she was no longer being hired to perform.

Shulman, a friend of Bassiouny's, is included in the suit for inviting the dancer to his home to meet with the ambassador several times, before the alleged attack took place in August.

The dancer, whose name is barred from publication, said in the suit that she agreed to meet Bassiouny at Shulman's home, after the ambassador convinced her he merely wanted to give her a birthday present and offer her jobs.

Once there, the woman claims, Bassiouny tried to persuade her to have sex with him and at one point forced her down on a bed, pinned her hands down, and kissed her.

She also claims that the police, giving undue consideration to foreign policy, which is not their domain, pressured her to drop her complaint.

The State Attorney's Office eventually dropped the case against Bassiouny for lack of evidence. State Attorney Edna Arbel elicited protests from women's groups when she commented that the woman had been "lightly clad and knew what she was letting herself in for." (News Agencies)

Histadrut, Treasury sign end-of-strike accord

The peacemaker from Brooklyn

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and DAVID HARRIS

Hundreds of thousands of workers, from civil servants to bankers, from garbage collectors to child-care providers, went back to work yesterday, as the heads of the Histadrut and Treasury signed an understanding ending the five-day general strike.

Strike was about power of the union, Page 3 Treasury: New pension deal saves NIS 5.6bn., Page 13

In an attempt to claim victory in the confrontation, a senior Treasury official quipped yesterday that while the Histadrut had won a Fiat 850 the government had earned a "shiny new Cadillac."

In the document, signed in the chambers of National Labor Court President Stephen Adler, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman agreed

that the Histadrut would be consulted before any decisions were made regarding health insurance, the state budget or structural economic changes.

The agreement also ratified the "Shohat-Peretz agreement," which calls for compensating wage earners for changes in pension terms.

Treasury sources confirmed yesterday that the agreement, reached just before last year's elections, which Neeman had challenged, was valid and had been signed with Treasury approval.

The Treasury also agreed to back down on plans to tax study funds.

The sides have 10 days to reach agreement over how to change civil servant pensions so that the funds are contributed by the workers and employers instead of coming solely from the state budget.

If the deadline isn't met, Neeman and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz would have three days to negotiate the issue on their own. If they, too, fail, then Judge Adler will be brought in again to arbitrate.

See STRIKE, Page 5

Getting Amir Peretz and Yaakov Neeman to agree on something wasn't too difficult for National Labor Court President Stephen Adler. As the father of five boys, he knows from conflict resolution.

But a day after the 56-year-old Brooklyn native resolved the dispute that had gridlocked the nation, he could allow himself to feel a bit Solomonic, as he relaxed following what was arguably his biggest case to date.

"I'll tell you what I felt," he said yesterday, recalling what went on in the Jerusalem courtroom as an entire nation held its breath. "I felt like I was doing the job I was trained for. I felt that the economy was in grave danger. The labor relations that have been built up over years were in danger of breaking down, and the court had to do its utmost to try to bring the parties to a settlement."

So what was it like trying to mix oil with water as he painstakingly



National Labor Court President Stephen Adler (Brian Hendler)

ground out an agreement?

"The atmosphere was actually good, much to my surprise," he said. "They negotiated in a gentlemanly fashion, and they related to each other with respect. They discussed the issues in a substantive way."

When the two men finally agreed and the strike was about to

end, "I felt very relieved," Adler said. "I think that it was very important for the country and labor relations that the two partners, the government as an employer and the Histadrut, should reach an agreement. Because without the communication between the two parties and the ability to reach an agreement, the whole purpose of the negotiations would not be fulfilled. The purpose of the negotiations is to reach an agreement, and it was important to do so."

When he walked out of the courtroom, "people were very happy, and the important thing was that the parties felt that I had assisted them to avert a potentially bad situation."

When he got home, his wife Ruth, a social worker who works with elderly disabled people, was already sleeping, "but this morning she was bappy to see my picture in the paper."

See BROOKLYN, Page 5



Strike was about power of the union

Tens of thousands of people who, as a result of the recent strike, were stuck in or out of the country, or were without drinking water, a shekel in their wallets or a kindergarten to send their children to, undoubtedly had a few choice curses for the Histadrut and its chairman, Amir Peretz.

But the cursing itself was an acknowledgment of the power of the union. And the power of the union, say analysts, was what the strike was all about.

"The Histadrut was on the ropes," said Dan Jacobson, a professor at Tel Aviv University's department of labor studies. "It was financially bankrupt and its numbers had dwindled as a result of the Health [Insurance] Law. The impression was that it was no longer a factor, and could not mobilize the workers on a large scale."

"The strike proved that it is a factor. Everyone now knows that you can not laugh at or make light of the Histadrut."

According to Jacobson, the strike not only put the union back on the map, it also all but assured that Peretz will be elected as Histadrut head — a job he inherited from Haim Ramon in 1995 when Ramon joined the Peres government — in the labor federation's elections next year.

The elections may very well have been on Peretz's mind when he agreed to end the strike as well.

"There is a limit to how much pressure you can place," Jacobson said, adding that the strike ended just at the right time for Histadrut. The hardships were incurred not only by the general public, he said, but also by the strikers them-

IN CONTEXT

elves, many of whom don't have strike funds.

Roby Nathanson, formerly head of the Histadrut's Institute for Social and Economic Research, and today the head of a Tel Aviv-based economic think tank, agreed with Jacobson and said that had the strike lasted any longer, negative public opinion would have begun to work against the union's goals.

"The Histadrut is sensitive to public opinion," he said. "If the strike had gotten much more unpopular, it could have led to a situation where those striking would have themselves begun to break ranks and not cooperate."

Nathanson said, however, that by using the strike weapon now, over a pension issue that does not affect everyone, deprived the union of the ability to use it for other — bigger — issues.

"One rule I always believed in when I was at the Histadrut was if you have power, don't make use of it — try to achieve your goals by other means," Nathanson said. "Because when you use power you deteriorate it, you turn public opinion against you and eventually lose ground."

According to Nathanson, this is precisely the dilemma the Histadrut now faces. The union proved its ability to affect vital services, "but how many times will the Histadrut be able to strike?" he asked. "Granted, they had a certain achievement, but there are so many other things wrong — income disparities, rising unemployment, cuts in the health system — how will they now be able to make an impact on those issues?"

Garbage strike enters 13th day

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

The strike by Tel Aviv sanitation workers enters its thirteenth day today after workers' representatives and the city failed to reach agreement last night.

In certain parts of Tel Aviv yesterday, citizens were spotted walking around in gas masks, white sanitary masks, or simply covering their noses and mouths with their shirts or handkerchiefs. The stench in some places, especially near the markets of Hatikva and Hacarmel, where rotting meat constituted a major part of the garbage, was intolerable.

In other places, business owners closed down because the heaps of garbage filling the sidewalks and spilling over into the streets prevented access to their shops.

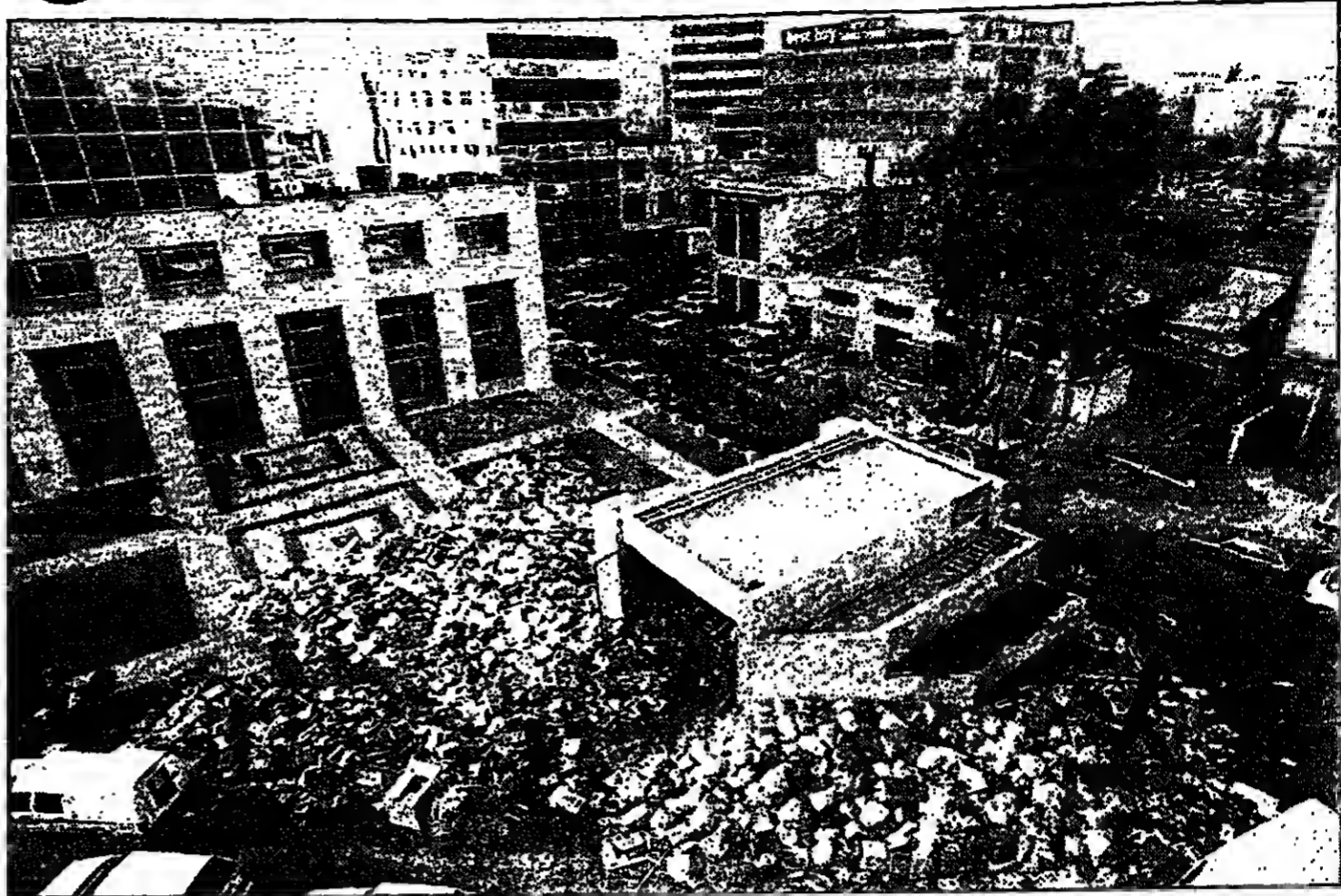
The legal advisers of the municipal workers' union and the city worked into the night yesterday to hammer out an agreement.

An agreement to end the strike was obtained from Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz, who was called to the rescue by Mayor Ronni Milo, after negotiations between the city and workers union quagmired after midnight Sunday.

Peretz, who earlier in the day signed an agreement with the Treasury ending the general economic strike, dropped into City Hall on his way to London yesterday afternoon. He got both sides to agree that the city employ private contractors to clean up four quarters, using no more than eight trucks.

This seemed to end the dispute, which focused on the sanitation workers objection to the city's hiring private contractors to collect garbage.

It was agreed private contractors would collect the garbage in



A plaza near Tel Aviv's old central bus station is filled with garbage as a result of the sanitation workers' strike. (Gideon Markovitz)

Florentine, Kiryat Shalom, Ramat Aviv Gimmel and Neveh Avivim. On Saturdays, non-Jewish workers and contractors' vehicles will clean up entertainment centers all over town.

The stalling of the talks Sunday night triggered off a series of disturbances yesterday. Some 300 sanitation workers demonstrated in Hatikva

Quarter, blocking Etezel Street until the police cleared the route to traffic. Six workers were arrested at a demonstration near the Hiriya garbage dump, after protesting strikers slashed the tires of three contractors' trucks. More than 100 garbage containers and bins were set on fire all over the city on Sunday and yesterday.

Meanwhile, dozens of Kitan textile workers continued to hole themselves in the Nazareth factory for a second day yesterday. They are protesting the intention of management to lay off workers and move the plant to Jordan.

They have called a demonstration on Thursday across from the Hussein Bridge in the Jordan Valley.

Details of initial pensions deal

The Treasury and Histadrut have agreed on the details of an initial pension deal. The deal covers the transition from the current system to a new one, including the transfer of assets and the calculation of benefits. The deal is expected to be finalized in the coming weeks.

The new system takes the burden out of the government's hands and insures that employees contribute to their monthly salary, with a further 12% from employer coffers. This will come into force on the day the Treasury and Histadrut sign the new agreement. No currently employed workers' pension rights will be affected.

The Treasury and Histadrut have agreed to intensive negotiations for the above points for 10 days. The National Labor Court called for a final compromise within two weeks.

Jerusalem returns to normal after strike

By ELLI WOHLGELERTER

Yesterday wasn't only the day to go back to work for the thousands of striking workers, it was also the day for thousands of others to take care of unfinished business that had been put on hold — pay bills, mail letters and finally get a hold of some cash.

The information clerk on the ground floor at Jerusalem City Hall said that at least 1,500 more people than on an average day showed up in the morning to pay their municipal property tax, and that the waiting line had stretched across the whole of the City Hall lobby. (He said the line would be longer today, when the discount begins for those wishing to pay their property tax early. The office will be open from 7 a.m. till 7 p.m.)

"Was it fun being on strike?" he asked. "Not for me, I wanted to come to work. And I lost three days' pay as well."

Across the street in Jerusalem's main post office, the lines were also long. Augustin Hernandez, from Mexico, had a stack of envelopes in his hand that needed to be mailed soon.

"I was worried that these Christmas cards wouldn't get out in time," he said. "But I think now they'll get delivered before the 25th."

Julie Klapper Sennott stood in line holding a bunch of bills that needed to get to America. "I have to send these by express mail, otherwise I'll have to pay huge fees, like on my mortgage," she said.

The biggest hassle caused by the strike was getting an immunization shot for her six-month-old son, William.

"But they're so backed up, it'll be another week before he gets his shot," she said.

A security guard at the post office, Michael Lemberg, said he worked last week during the strike, informing everyone who came in that the post office was closed, for reasons he couldn't understand.

"They asked me why, I told them to go ask [Histadrut Chairman] Amir Peretz. What could I tell them?"

But the biggest relief yesterday was the availability of money. At Check Point on Ben-Yehuda Street downtown, the strike "provided less business than we all thought it would," said Doron Strauss. "Israelis didn't come in because they didn't have the shekels to buy dollars for overseas travel, and they couldn't get out of

the country because the airport was on strike. And we didn't have the usual tourist trade, because they weren't coming into the country either."

Up the street, at the main branch of Israel Discount Bank, a handwritten sign taped to the wall informed customers that the bank had extended its operating hours for the day to make up for the strike.

The bank was busy all day,

workers said, so much so that the crush of business resulted in the computers crashing twice in the morning, once for an hour and the second time for 45 minutes.

"I ran out of money, that's why I'm here today," said Rabbi Aryeh Weiss of Kiryat Arba, as he withdrew money from the automatic teller machine. "I usually keep some money in reserve at home, and I had enough to get

me to Shabbat, buy I ran out and couldn't buy anything yesterday."

Weiss said he was upset at the strike, because "it accomplished nothing and made everyone suffer, so that Amir Peretz can say, 'We were victorious, the workers won.' That kind of rhetoric is from 50 years ago, nobody speaks that way anymore. People are too busy trying to make money."

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARON

Winners and losers

The Treasury-Histadrut agreement ending the five-day general strike that paralyzed the country gave the press plenty of material to use for analyzing the achievements of the unprecedented war Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz launched.

Ma'ariv's Moshe Peri writes that Peretz won his battle for pension rights and the implementation of existing agreements. In addition, Peretz has proven that "he is not a man to be messed with."

According to Yediot Aharonot's Hagar Emsch, the Histadrut's status has gained a boost from the strike.

"It has turned overnight from an organization that had gone bankrupt — to one with public presence," she writes, adding that the "government no longer needs to just hear the Histadrut's demands, but must listen to them."

In an article entitled "Peretz has won, legal system has lost," Ha'aretz's Nehemia Strassler focuses on the damage done to the legal system by Peretz's decision to ignore the back-to-work orders Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein issued and National Labor Court President Steve Adler's decision to postpone the contempt of court suits.

"Even Adler chose to pardon the honor of the court — the loser is the legal system," Strassler writes.

The most significant meaning of the struggle with the Treasury, lies in the democratic aspect,

Prof. Francis Raday writes in Yediot that: "The workers unions always functioned as means to protect democratic principles against injuries inflicted by autocratic governments."

Gil affair

As the case of the false information an agent gave to the Mossad unravels, the media attempt to assess the impact of the story on the intelligence community and society.

"Almost every failure within the intelligence community is followed by mud-wrestling abundant with slander," Yediot's Ron Ben-Yishai writes, referring to the rivalry between former Mossad director Shabtai Shavit, former OC Intelligence, Uri Saguy and the current Mossad director, Danny Yatom.

Ben-Yishai adds that following Yaom's mishap in the Mashal affair, his exposure of Gil's conduct may be an asset to his damaged reputation.

Ma'ariv's Bamby Sheleg also refers to the timing of the affair's exposure, claiming that it is not coincidental: "An interesting question is: who leaked the classified information and why do so in the present time; is the leak meant to advance a Syrian option and to anesthetize the Palestinian front?"

According to Ha'aretz's Gidon Samet, "The Mossad is the mole," explaining that unlike other state bodies it has been isolated from external criticism and inspection. "The only way to purify the system

is by "exercising cruel means against the Mossad and not licking its wounds...without fearing an upheaval from within."

"What is most scary is the fact that this bizarre event fits in so well with everything else that's happened here lately," concludes Ma'ariv's Chemi Shalev.

Inability to launch

With the opening of the Labor convention on Sunday, Ha'aretz's Avram Golan exposes the lack of party unity, quoting one official as saying: "Here exists a weak and confused party, waiting impatiently for Netanyahu to fall, but no one is waiting for [Labor leader] Ehud Barak to win."

Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid claims that Barak is called to prove to his party's members that his controversial suggestion to draft those exempt from military service into national service is not another "zag on the zig zag road that he has been treading since being elected as chairman."

A meeting with Albright

Yediot's Sever Plotzker is convinced that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will press Prime Minister Binayamin Netanyahu into making concessions. "Like a good and tough kindergarten teacher, Albright will bring Netanyahu and Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat to the common playground and force them to end their feud."

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Gore tries to jump-start climate summit

By BRIAN WILLIAMS

KYOTO (Reuters) — US Vice President Al Gore said yesterday his visit to a stalled global warming conference had set off momentum towards an agreement on cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Playing down suggestions that his visit was in danger of turning sour because he offered only "negotiating flexibility" rather than new proposals, Gore said critics missed his key point that the flexibility extended to all issues.

"There's no doubt in my mind that there has been momentum in the talks today and I think that most of the parties here will say that as well," Gore said. "In due time you will see exactly what it [flexibility] means," he said.

Asked if changes in the US position on the size of emission cut targets were included in the new "negotiation flexibility" he announced earlier in the day, Gore replied: "Well, of course. In our stated position as I repeated this morning, we have already committed to go below stabilization at 1990 levels in the year following 2012.

"And as I said in a much broader gauge, of a review of the overall treaty with all its provisions, our negotiators have new flexibility," he said.

The issues of the size of greenhouse gas curbs, with the US pro-

posal simply aiming to stabilize emissions at 1990 levels, and a commitment by developing nations have become two key subjects standing in the way of an agreement.

The European Union has proposed that emissions be cut by 15 percent from 1990 levels by 2010, although on Sunday evening British Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott suggested that the EU may agree to cuts of less than 15 percent.

"I will tell you that there has been some movement by some developing countries and I hope that that movement will translate into meaningful participation, but we'll have to wait and see," Gore said.

Gore swept into the conference on a rushed 19-hour visit to deliver a speech that was long on rhetoric but short on details as to any concrete US switch in climate policy.

Gore's visit, which began in pre-dawn cold and rain at Osaka airport, marked the start of head-to-head bargaining between some 160 countries intent on binding the world's rich nations to cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases.

Observers of the 10-day conference bickered over the significance of what White House aides termed a "key, late addition" to the speech Gore delivered during the morning.

Gore said that after last-minute

discussions with President Bill Clinton, the United States was ready to ease its formerly intransigent stance to get an agreement.

"I am instructing our delegation right now to show increased negotiating flexibility if a comprehensive plan can be put in place, with realistic targets and timetables, market mechanisms and the meaningful participation of key developing countries," he said.

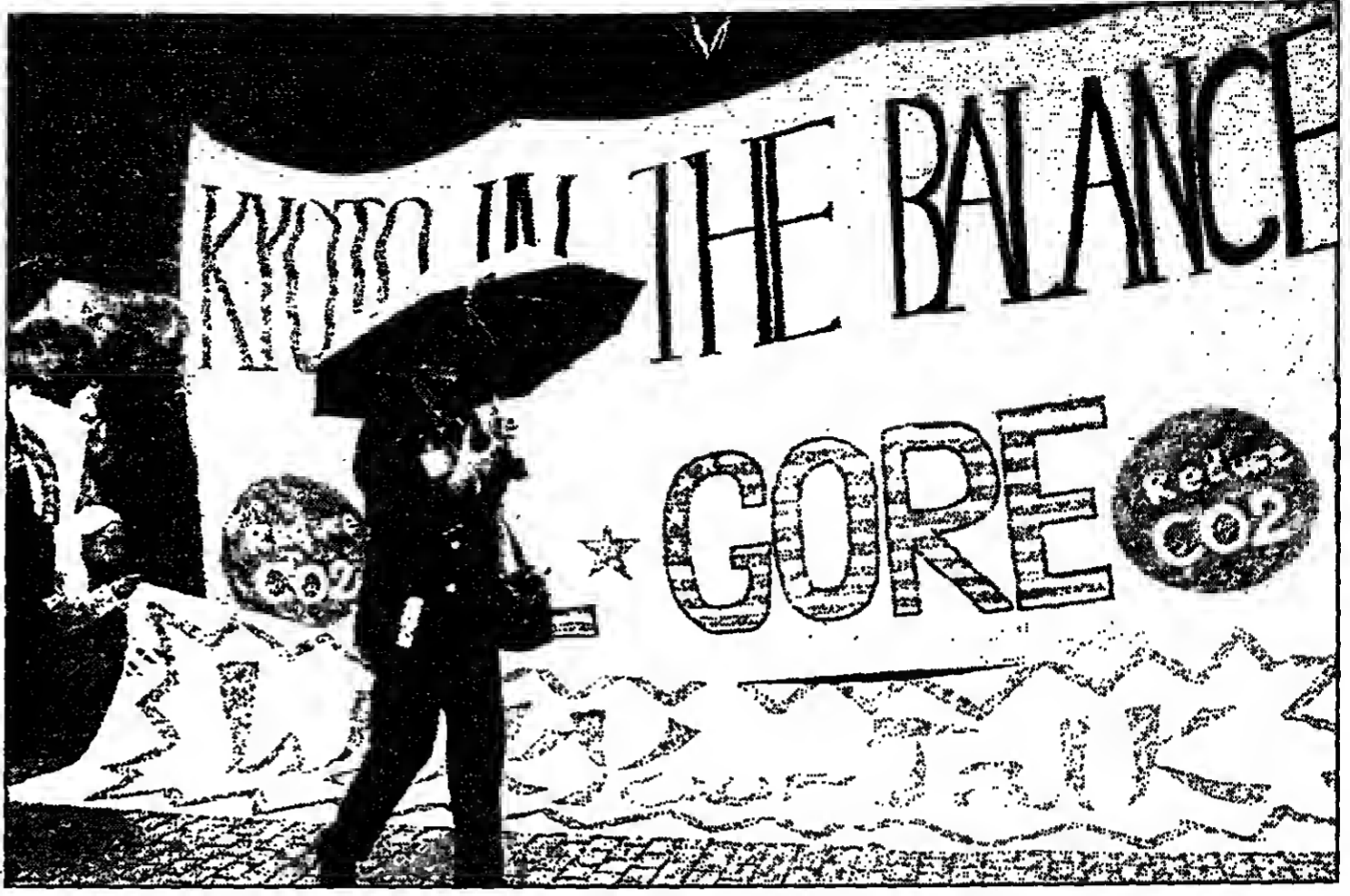
Asked what he thought would be acceptable as meaningful participation, Gore replied, "Well, we'll know it when we see it."

Gore said he and Clinton were telephoning prime ministers and presidents around the world to explain and get their support for US plans.

Asked why his visit to Kyoto was so short, Gore said he felt his on-the-spot job had been done by getting momentum back into the meeting.

"I can [now] best influence the chances of success by staying on the telephone to the presidents and prime ministers who are issuing the instructions to their delegations [in Kyoto]," he said.

Referring to the political fight that could lie ahead if the Clinton administration agreed to a deal opposed by congress, Gore said, "I think it would be a real 'knock-out, drag out' debate that would be really good for the country. I think it would be high stakes and a lot of fun."



An unidentified delegate walks past a huge banner at the entrance to the Kyoto International Convention Hall yesterday. (AP)

German general suspended over neo-Nazi talk

By TONY CZUCZKA

BONN (AP) — An army general who headed the German military's leadership academy when it invited a neo-Nazi to give a lecture has been suspended from duty, the defense minister said yesterday.

In the attempt to defuse the German military's latest embarrassment, Defense Minister Volker Ruede also said the colonel who invited Manfred Roeder for the Jan. 24, 1995 lecture also is being disciplined.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl dismissed calls by opposition politicians to fire Ruede, saying he had

full trust in the defense minister. A defense ministry spokesman said an investigation had revealed a large circle of officers at the Hamburg-based academy knew of Roeder's background as a convicted neo-Nazi and former lawyer.

Ruede said "the evidence so far indicates the invitation was not based on sympathy for this rightist radical at the leadership academy." Rather, he suggested at a news conference, Col. Norbert Schwarzer acted in ignorance when he invited Roeder.

But Ruede said he could not explain why 25 to 30 staff members who heard the lecture about

the forced resettlement of ethnic Germans in the former Soviet Union didn't report to superiors that the speaker was a known neo-Nazi.

Ruede said he had been unaware of the speech.

"I condemn the speech ... in the most severe terms possible," he said, adding that the academy's reputation had been damaged.

He said Schwarzer will be recalled from duty in Albania, where he is on a mission to train local troops. The former head of the academy, Lt. Gen. Hartmut Olbocner, is being suspended as the military's chief of personnel at

his own request pending the probe.

Earlier, Ruede declared "it is unacceptable... that a person like Roeder was permitted to give a speech at the academy." The latest scandal linking extreme rightists to the military was revealed Saturday by *Der Spiegel* magazine.

Roeder was released from prison in 1990 after serving eight years of a 13-year sentence for arson attacks in 1980 in which two Vietnamese immigrants died. He was previously convicted in 1978 of distributing neo-Nazi literature and inciting hatred against foreigners.

Pro-Karadzic party rejects Bosnian-Serb election results

By RADUL RADOVANOVIC

PALE, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — A top aide to former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic claimed election fraud yesterday, saying his party would not accept results that denied the party a majority in the Bosnian Serb parliament.

Preliminary results of the November 22-23 balloting were released Sunday and showed the pro-Karadzic party losing control of parliament. The balloting appeared to leave no clear winner in the power struggle between Karadzic, who is under indictment for war crimes, and his rival, Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic.

The pro-Karadzic Serb Democratic Party won 24 seats, and the Serb nationalist Radical-potential allies — 15, which left them short of a majority in the 83-seat parliament. Plavsic's newly formed party won 15 seats. A coalition dominated by Muslims and representing refugees took 16 seats, and another minor party from the federation, two seats.

Socialists won nine seats and a minor party won two, but it wasn't clear where either would line up in

any coalition-building.

"We are shocked by the announced results," Karadzic's aide, Momcilo Krajisnik, said. "There has been an obvious theft. The assembly cannot convene based on rigged election results." Krajisnik, the Serb member of Bosnia's joint presidency, said the Serb Democratic Party — founded and still run by Karadzic — would lodge a formal complaint asking that the results be invalidated.

Johan Verheyden, spokesman for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said of vote-rigging: "That is something we can definitively deny." The OSCE has supervised all elections in Bosnia since the war ended in 1995.

In a further indication that Karadzic and his allies will resist Western efforts to reunite Bosnia, Krajisnik also said the Bosnian Serbs would block efforts to extend Western mandates to oversee Bosnian affairs.

Those efforts will come this week at an international conference in Bonn, one of two convened each year to review progress in implementing the Dayton peace accords.

Under the agreement, the OSCE

is to end its activities in the country next year.

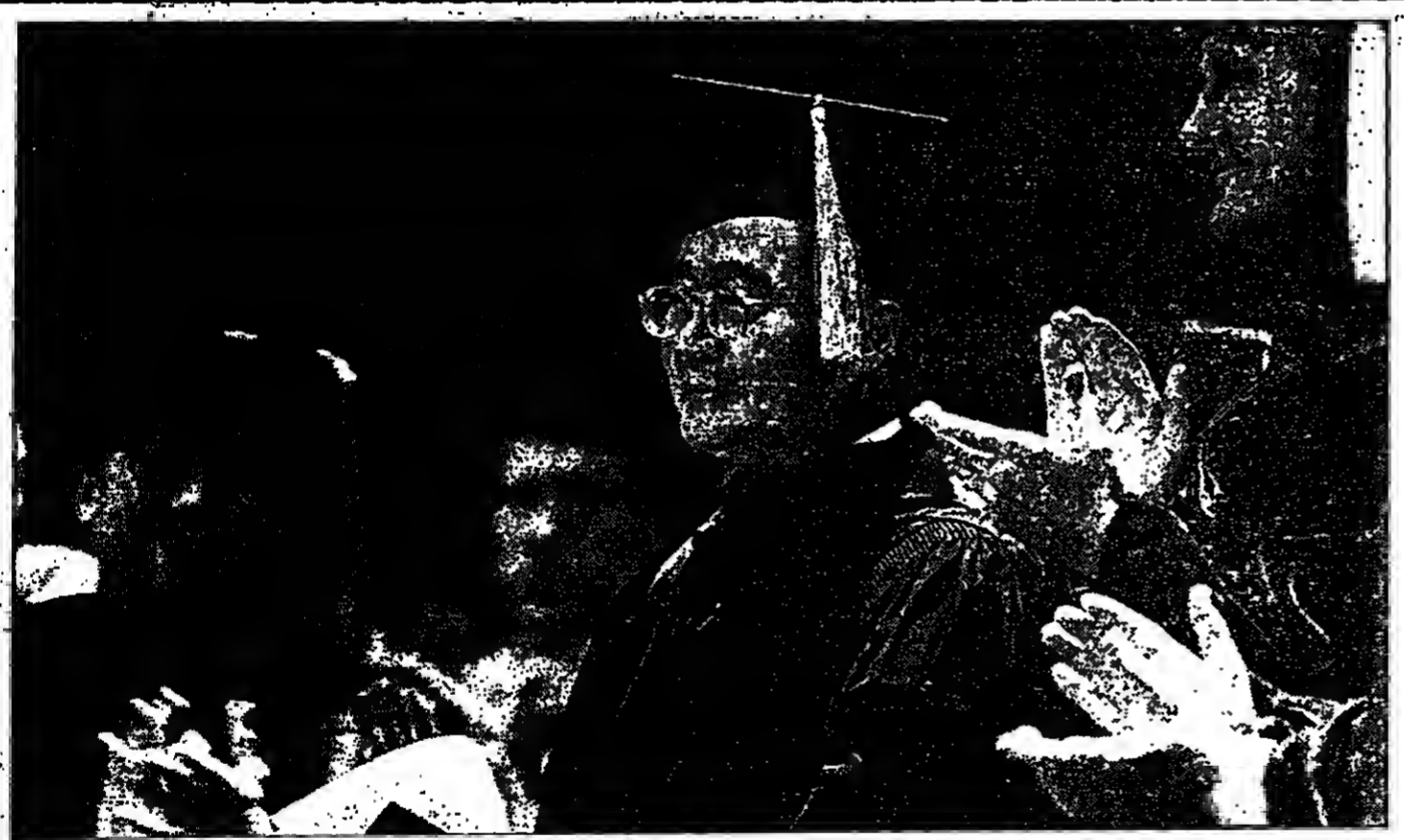
The OSCE is seeking to extend the mandate, however, since progress in forging a peaceful and united Bosnia is lagging far behind the original Dayton timetable.

Krajisnik's delegation, which believes the OSCE rigged last month's election, wants the group out of Bosnia.

Also, Krajisnik said he would oppose any broadening of the mandate for the most senior international mediator in Bosnia, known as the High Representative.

"The Bonn conference is crucial for the future of Bosnia," Krajisnik said. "If they try to impose solutions on us — solutions which are outside the Dayton agreement — there will be no Bosnia. Bosnia has no future if solutions are imposed."

Krajisnik, who controls the eastern half of the Serbs' sub-state, and Plavsic, who controls the western, both will attend the international conference in Bonn this week. Krajisnik said the Bosnian Serb president was welcome to attend in her own right, but made it clear he believes he represents the Serb side at the gathering.



Standing ovation Human-rights campaigner Harry Wu receives a standing ovation following his address during the University of South Alabama graduation commencement in Mobile, Alabama. Wu spent 19 years as a political prisoner in China. (AP)

Germany charges Serb with murdering Bosnian Moslem

KARLSRUHE, Germany (AP) — Federal prosecutors filed charges yesterday against a 57-year-old Serb man they accuse of executing a Muslim on a garbage heap during the Bosnian war.

The defendant, who prosecutors would identify only as Maksim S., also is accused of abusing a Muslim woman, having her raped by colleagues and ordering her shot in the leg.

He has been charged with murder, rape, assault, kidnapping and being an accessory to genocide, prosecutors in Karlsruhe said.

Maksim S., who was arrested a year ago in Germany, is alleged to have been a member of a paramilitary group that carried out genocidal policies of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. The group terrorized Muslims through rape, assault and killings to oust them from areas of Bosnia that the Serbs claimed, prosecutors said.

Maksim S., who lived in Germany since 1969 but was in Bosnia during the war, is the fourth Serb arrested in Germany on war crimes charges.

The UN tribunal for former Yugoslavia in The Hague, Netherlands, took over the case of one them, Dusan Tadic. But it asked Germany to handle the other three cases.

German courts already have convicted the other two defendants.

Prosecutors said Maksim S. and fellow Serbs drove Muslims from the Kalesija region of Bosnia with clubs in May 1992. The defendant is accused of pulling a man from a bus load of departing Muslims, taking him to a garbage heap and shooting him to death.

US launches new hearings on TWA crash

By PAT MILTON

BALTIMORE (AP) — The captain's steering column was broken. His seat was tangled in the wires of the cockpit. And his life vest was untouched in its pouch. Details like these were everywhere in newly released reports on the TWA Flight 800 explosion, but still no cause was cited.

The spark that ignited the center fuel tank of the jumbo jet just minutes after it left Kennedy International Airport for Paris remains as elusive as ever, nearly 17 months after the July 1996 disaster.

Beginning today, the National Transportation Safety Board takes its turn to show the world the fruits of the largest aviation accident investigation in history. The FBI bowed out two weeks ago after finding no evidence that a bomb or a missile downed the Boeing 747.

Chairman James Hall was scheduled to open five days of hearings aimed at gathering even more information than was contained in the thousands of pages of reports made public on Sunday.

The NTSB released the docu-

ments to some of the more than 500 journalists given credentials to cover the testimony and distributed the reports on a CD-ROM and over its Internet site. (<http://www.ntsb.gov>)

Peter Goetz, a NTSB spokesman, said the investigation already has armed the government with information to make the skies safer.

For instance, simulated flight tests a year after the disaster that killed all 230 people on board have shown that the vapors in the nearby empty center fuel tank were likely ready to explode even before the plane left the ground.

Sophisticated tests on a plane subjected to nearly exactly the same conditions as TWA Flight 800 showed that the temperatures inside the tank would have been well over 38° C before the plane left the runway.

Tests done after the disaster show that portions of air-conditioning units located less than a foot from the bottom of the fuel tank reached a temperature of over 200° C, according to the documents released Sunday.

The documents and the hearings may help the NTSB pressure the Federal Aviation Administration to adopt potentially costly recom-

mendations to reduce temperatures in fuel tanks so they cannot explode.

During the July simulation, the agency found that temperatures in a nearby empty center fuel tank were as high as 62.8° C before the flight took off, following the exact route as Flight 800.

As it climbed in the cooler sky, the temperatures in the tank gradually declined but remained well above 38° C.

"This is the big issue," Goetz said. He predicted that two days of the hearings would concentrate on the volatility of vapors and fuel in the tanks.

Goetz said the NTSB was encouraged in the past week when the FAA agreed to take a closer look at recommendations made by the NTSB a year ago to reduce the volatility of vapors. The FAA has insisted that the problem can be resolved by eliminating any ignition source near the tank.

"Our most important product in the end is our safety recommendations," Goetz said. "Our job is to make recommendations so that these accidents don't happen again."

"There has been extraordinary attention on this investigation,

made more complex by the criminal aspect. This has put an enormous amount of pressure on this agency," Goetz said.

Investigators also found wires with insulation worn away in bundles of wiring leading through the plane's center fuel tank.

In some sections of the kilometers of wiring retrieved from the ocean, investigators found the insulation was corroded or cracked to the core, the documents stated.

One of the theories investigators are focusing on is that the catastrophic explosion in the plane's center fuel tank may have been sparked by a surge of high voltage electricity, which was transferred into the tank through damaged low voltage wiring to the tank's fuel measuring rods.

The measuring rods — which allow the pilot know the amount of fuel in the tank — carry a minuscule amount of electricity, incapable of igniting vapors on its own.

The FBI investigated the possibility that a bomb or a missile brought down the plane until two weeks ago, when it suspended its probe after finding no evidence to support a criminal theory.

Buy a Hanukka Toy For a Needy Child

A doll costs NIS 50, a toy truck costs NIS 80, a jigsaw puzzle costs NIS 30, a stuffed toy costs NIS 40, roller skates cost NIS 100, a Barbie doll costs NIS 60

The Jerusalem Post Hanukka Book Fair
Friday, December 12, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ZOA House, Rehov Daniel Frisch, off Ibn Gabirol, Tel Aviv

Come to the Post Funds desk at the fair and make a donation for a Hanukka gift and bring a smile to the face of a needy child during the Festival of Lights.

Knockin' on Dylan's door

By DOUG MEYER

Washington power elite joined a tribute to Sunday Bob Dylan, Chariton Heston, opera soprano Jess Norman, and dancer Edward Villella at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

President Bill Clinton, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan and House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich were among those who celebrated the artists in a black-tie affair.

The longest string ovation went to Dylan, the influential pop musician of the 1960s. Dylan appeared uncomfortable accepting the applause.

Actor Gregory Peck, a 1991 Kennedy Center honoree, told the audience that in Dylan's songs, "we hear the cries of old American values." Bruce Springsteen sang "The Times They Are a-Changin'" one of Dylan's best-known songs from the 1960s. Shari Rippin performed an electric version of Dylan's "You Gotta Serve Somebody" that Greenspan and Gingrich sang in their seats.

The 1997 set of Kennedy Center Honorees reflect the diversity of American artistic expression, with the 21-member executive board showing its customary bias toward the silver screen.

Bacall is best known for her sultry looks and saucer glances in such movies as *To Have and Have Not*, in which she made her film debut in 1942 at age 19. She married her co-star from that film and for 11 years until his death, Bacall and the legendary Humphrey Bogart were one of Hollywood's most famous and romantic couples.

Heston used his commanding features and presence to great

affect in films such as *Ben-Hur*, for which he won an Academy Award in 1959.

For many people, Heston's face is the face of Moses, whom he portrayed in Cecil B. DeMille's biblical epic *The Ten Commandments* in 1956. Heston is well known in recent years as a defender of gun rights for the National Rifle Association.

Norman, raised in poverty in Augusta, Georgia, was praised by actor Sidney Poitier, a 1995 Kennedy Center honoree.

"All's I know is if God is a woman, then Jessye is her voice," he said. Despite her humble origins, Norman impressed music professors enough at Howard University in Washington to give her a four-year scholarship. In 1968, one year after graduation, she won the Munich International Music Competition.

After establishing her name in Europe, Norman made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera in New York in 1983, where she has remained a star performer.

Villella, who as a scrappy Italian-American kid growing up in New York had to withstand the ribbing of his peers, became the premier male star of New York City Ballet in the 1960s.

Actress Joanne Woodward, a 1992 Kennedy Center honoree, said that even as a child, Villella's talent was evident, and he became known as the boy who could fly.

Working under the direction of dance master George Balanchine, an 1978 Kennedy Center honoree, Villella was an energetic and very physical dancer. But in 1975, a hip injury forced Villella into retirement and a new role as teacher and director.

In 1986 he leaped at the chance to form the Miami City Ballet, which in a short time has become one of the leading dance companies in America.



Clockwise from top left: Rocker Bob Dylan, actress Lauren Bacall, dancer Edward Villella, Chariton Heston and singer Jessy Norman — all honored for contributions to American culture (Reuters)

James Bond: A license to sell

By RICHARD LORANT

James Bond is everywhere in the US. There's 007 out-running bad guys on his BMW motorcycle, sipping a vodka martini (shaken, not stirred), making a call on his Ericsson cell phone.

What about his new movie? Products that have come roles in *Tomorrow Never Dies* are being heavily advertised in an all-out license to sell.

The strategy seems to reach new extremes with the Bond movie. Agreements with eight "promotional partners" got the film \$100 million worth of publicity before MGM had spent a dime on marketing.

The manufacturers are happy because they get to turn the suave, debonaire man of intrigue into a human billboard, making it hard to tell where the advertising ends and the movie begins.

Explained MGM executive vice-president Karen Sorrito, "You need to put products in movies to make them realistic. Why shouldn't we get something out of it? This is a guy who's been picking up gadgets and getting into cool cars for decades. Do they really want us to scratch out the logos?"

Indeed, placing products in Hollywood movies has evolved into a fine art since 1982, when an unpaid appearance by Reese's Pieces in *E.T.* was followed by an increase in sales of the candy.

Getting companies to pay for shots featuring their products helps studios defray marketing costs, which have skyrocketed to between \$15m. and \$50m. a movie.

"Everyone in the business is trying to figure out how to leverage their marketing budgets because it's becoming so expensive," said Al Lieberman, director of NYU's entertainment and media program.

Tomorrow Never Dies could use some leverage. It cost \$100m. to produce and is being released in Israel and elsewhere on December 19.

In addition to BMW, Ericsson and Omega, MGM has approved Bond ad campaigns for Smirnoff, Heineken, Avis, Visa, and L'Oréal.

"James Bond uses his Ericsson for all his close calls," reads the kicker on one full-page newspaper ad that shows a movie still of Pierce Brosnan on a cellular phone. In a Smirnoff ad, twists of lemon floating in a vodka martini spell out "007."

On TV, the familiar Bond guitar riff plays over a chase scene from the movie as an announcer warns viewers not to try the stunt at home. The product: the BMW Cruiser motorcycle Bond is riding. BMW returned to the Bond franchise after successfully using the previous Bond film, *GoldenEye*, to help launch its Z3 Roadster. "About 10,000 pre-orders were attributable to the film," said Jack Pitney, a company spokesman.

Like other partners, BMW did not pay the studio a placement fee but agreed to promote the movie in its ads. In all, MGM got \$48m. worth of movie promotions in the US and \$52m. overseas before launching its own multimillion-dollar "direct" campaign. (AP)

Maudlin odes to Princess Diana

In line



By Didit Brunn

Talk about dower. Anyone who lists to this star-studded title to Diana, Princess of Wales, better have their handkerchiefs handy.

I would think from her general *joie de vivre* a pop-lover of Diana would have preferred

DIANARIBUTE
Vari Artists
(IC)

LOUNGE-PALOOZA
Vari Artists
(Baratz)

TITAN FREDOLCONCERT
Vari Artists
(IC)

something like her friend Elton John's "Crocote Rock" over these maudlin Nether Theresa odes to her legacy. In this compilation, the proceeds from which benefit the Dpa Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, accente-

ates the negative.

Some of the selections are no-brainers — Eric Clapton milking "Tears in Heaven" for yet another victim, and Queen's "Who Wants to Live Forever?" Then there are songs that don't make an immediate connection. Bruce Springsteen's "Streets of Philadelphia" is included because of Diana's work with AIDS patients, get it? And Barbra Streisand's "Theme from A Star is Born" is included, well, because Barbra is sort of like royalty.

Ethereal strings dominate nearly every track, as if the angel Diana is looming overhead smiling down on the proceedings. There are some moving moments in spite of the forced pathos: Paul McCartney's "Little Willow," Neil Finn's (Crowded House) solo acoustic "Don't Dream, It's Over" and the Pretenders' "Hymn to Her" which sounds like it was especially made to order for the princess.

Diana groups will eat this up and come back for seconds. Let's hope the health funds have a plentiful supply of powerful antidepressants at hand.

A MORE natural antidote to the Diana blues can be found in the grooves of *Lounge-a-palooza*, a tongue-firmly-in-cheek celebration of lounge music.

The line notes explain that the concept "takes lounge music to its illogical conclusions," and the crooked compilers achieve this by teaming up alternative faves with soft-pop standards like Burt Bacharach's "This Guy's in Love



What would Diana think of this depressing disc?

with You" and Mel Torme's "Zaz Turned Blue." Or they turn the situation on end with lounge lizards putting their touches on modern rock. The results range from amusing to hilarious.

The all-time lounge song "The Girl From Ipanema" is remixed into a Japanese big-band song; soul singer Jimmy Scott and Flea from Red Hot Chili Peppers slow down the Captain and Tennie hit "Love Will Keep Us Together" into a smoldering jazz cocktail.

But it all pales in comparison to the deranged genius of teaming up lounge pros Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme with the Soundgarden sonic classic "Black Hole Sun." Hearing Lawrence croon behind perfect orchestra backup lines like "Boiling heat, summer stench, /neath the black, the sky looks dead" goes way beyond tongue-in-cheek and breaks clear through to the frontal lobes.

It's time to dust off the old leisure suits and fix some martinis. Make mine dry, shaken not stirred.

Other highlights include the chance to hear members of Pearl Jam and R.E.M. perform stripped-down acoustic numbers, although the Michael Stipe-Mike Mills "Electrolysis" could have done without the tacky drum machine.

But the project's ultimate accomplishment is to demonstrate how encompassing rock is in the late 1990s. Without a center anywhere, we have a situation where acts as diverse as Blur, Bjork and Beastie Boys can share a stage and an audience. It's a little like Woodstock without the mod.

A poet's requiem

Theater Review



By Naomi Doudai

Seven years after her premature death from cancer Yona Wallach is still regarded as the most daring and defiant of contemporary Hebrew poets. But her influence does not end there.

For the over-40s generation as much as the under-30s, she has never died. As a spiritual catalyst and fighting factor she lives on in them, in body as well as mind.

The fact that her wild, uninhibited

YONA YONA
Written and directed
by Hagit Rakavi Nikolavsky
Habimah's Blumenthal Theater

lifestyle was a realization of everything that she in her writings professed, makes for explosive stage material.

The play, a mosaic of the most turbulent emotional moments in Wallach's life, shows her in all her exasperating contradictions, from self-obsessed eccentricity, erotic ardor, creative egomania, to warmth and concern.

Facing death with Spartan

courage as she does throughout the play, it is also her own epitaph. But above all it is a requiem, the writer's act of homage to the unquenchable, poetic fervor of a great spirit. It is realized with an intensity that consumes the audience — as it assigns it the role of chief mourner.

Although playing for some time (Best Play award, Acre Festival 1996) the production will now have a planned extended run at Habimah, but with casting changes.

The lead will now be played by a hitherto hardly known but immensely talented actress, Lani Shabat who takes over from Orna Katz, awarded Most Outstanding Actress Prize at Acre.

In a bewitching interpretation Shabat shows an unbelievable range of mood and temperament in depicting the poet described as "an angel of fire," and a *poete maudite*. Shabat's performance flows from towering passion to cool irony, mischievousness to incandescent rage, scalding derision to crippling remorse.

Playing opposite as her long-suffering though feisty mother (for which she also earned an Acre award) is Estie Kussevitsky. Without resort to sentiment or pathos she projects this moving and genuinely pathetic role with understated sincerity.

Discreetly woven into the action is a compelling rock accompaniment featuring Wallach's lyrics. Shabat Bar adds another dimension to the drama with his vocal renderings that intersperse his role as her singer-lover.

CONCER ROUNDUP

The "cherub standing before God" achieved an impressive climax, emphasized by the well-sustained general pause, in the IPO's performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with

PO
Beethoven Symphony No. 9 and Schostakovich's A *Servant from Warsaw*
Jerusalem International Congress Center
November 28

the Slovak Philharmonic Choir, conducted by Kurt Masur. The final movement was the crowning glory. The soloists (Klley Nassief, Amette Markert, John Aq and Wolf Matthias Friedrich) blended harmoniously, and the choir was full of joyful and well-embellished, though not particularly enthusiastic.

Speed was achieved at the expense of clarity in the second movement, and melody substituted for melodiousness in the third, these disappointments were compensated for by the inspired rendition of the concluding "Ode to Joy." Schenker's intensely disturbing

Survivor from Warsaw may have been selected as an antidote to the redeeming joy of Beethoven's masterpiece. Austrian-born actor Klaus Maria Brandauer did his best to strike the almost impossible balance between noble restraint and theatrical pathos in his narration.

Ury Eppstein

TO COMMEMORATE the 90th anniversary of Oedon Partos's birth, two of his works and homages by two contemporary Israeli composers were performed by the Young Musicians' Group in the Youth at the Center series.

Partos's Rondo for violin and piano (Keren Tenenbaum and Michael Berkovsky), releases exuberant, dance-inspired energies that possibly draw

IN MEMORY OF PARTOS
The Young Musicians' Group
Mishkenot Sha'ananim
November 28

from the folklore of his native Hungary.

In *Maqamat* for flute (Eyal Ein-Habar) and string quartet (1959), Partos's European background is amalgamated with elements of local music traditions.

Yinam Lee's triptych for piano, clarinet (Ron Trachman, Shirley Brill) and string trio, though dedicated to Partos's memory, does not demonstrate any recognizable affinity to the composer's

style. Playfulness alternating with pensiveness, in well-proportioned doses, make it an agreeable piece to listen to.

Written not "in memory of" but "while remembering him," in the composer's own words, Zeev Steinberg's *Little String Quintet* displays contrasting moods and techniques. Ury Eppstein

ANTONIO Pappano led the IPO through an impressive rendition of Verdi's

OTELLO
By Giuseppe Verdi
IPO
Mann Auditorium
December 4

Otello. In this condensed drama, baritone Tom Fox was a towering lingo and soprano Susan Chitcut was a pure Desdemona. But the tenor voice of Edmund Barham (*Otello*) is too sweet and not powerful enough for the role of the tender lover-turned-monster. Tenors Gwyn Hughes Jones (*Cassio*) and Sami Gudin (*Roderigo*) and bass Gudjon Oscarson (*Ludovico*) were in a good form, while Susanna Poretsky, with her warm mezzo, made a tragic Emilia. Denis Sedov's pure bass (*Montano*) has developed very well. The IPO sounded great. Acclaimed by the visiting Slovak Philharmonic Choir. Maxim Reider

YOSSI BANAI SINGS BRASSENS
Rebecen Crown Auditorium Jerusalem
December 6

number in the program. The "Gorilla" song is one of Brassens's most socially critical works.

But overall, this was an evening about love, the discovery of love, and the acknowledgment that there are no happy loves, as one of the ballads suggests. But in the long run, the effect is more reassuring because it suggests that there is nothing more beautiful than love, even if

it just the love of the moment.

Accompanied by the superb Yossi Levi on guitar and Shmuel Magen on bass, Banai delivered 90 minutes of musical storytelling charm at its best.

Michael Ajenstadi

IT WAS so beautiful, it was almost unbearable. Yair Dalal, with his mysterious magical smile, takes you on a captivating journey where conventional con-

Yair Dalal and Ensemble Alol
Tel Aviv, Tzavta 2
November 29

cepts of time, space and freedom do not exist — as long as the music lasts. "Alol" is the Hebrew word for a whirling desert wind. The desert is the place where Dalal, an important figure in Israeli ethnic music, and his Ensemble Alol, draw their inspiration. A performer, arranger and composer, Dalal creates a rare but authentic mixture of Oriental and Western, of Jewish and Arab, of old and new.

Their music represents the rich variety of the Eastern tradition, such as "Silan," rooted in Iraqi Jewish liturgy, or "Adon Hashtohot," which comes from Judeo-Arab tradition of the Golden Age of Spain, or "Trance," a piece, based on a Turkish folk tune with a klezmer

introduction.

The ensemble members — Nurit Ofer (tabla, tambura, vocal), Eyal Faran (sitar, guitar), Eyal Selah (clarinet, bamboo flute), Avi Agababa (daf, darbuka), as well as Dalal himself (oud, violin, vocal) — are accomplished performers. Their improvisations are simply bewitching. The intimate setting of the concert is reminiscent of the *Arabian Nights*.

Maxim Reider

AMONG six finalists, selected out of 159 contestants from 40 countries, the jury of the Leonard Bernstein Jerusalem International Composing Competition could not find one deserving the title laureate. Instead, two were awarded honorary mention.

LEONARD BERNSTEIN JERUSALEM INTERNATIONAL COMPOSING COMPETITION
JISO
Jerusalem Theater
November 30 — December 3

Imaginative though some of the works were, none was really so outstanding to be granted first prize. The closing concert included two of Bernstein's works: a movement of the *Jeremiah* Symphony, with Mira Zakai, and episodes from *On the Town*.

Ury Eppstein

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Strategic friendship

As the Islamic Conference convenes today in Tehran, Turkey is for the first time hosting Israel's defense minister on an official, high-profile visit. Though the timing is likely coincidental, the two events illustrate the distance between the two poles within the Moslem world.

For all the attention that is understandably paid to Israel's relationship with its closest neighbors, such as the Palestinians, Jordan, and Egypt, the quiet partnership between Israel and Turkey is of equal importance. Though Turkey is a state with a Moslem majority, Israel and Turkey share a natural bond, based on common interests. Both countries are democracies in a region not friendly to democracy. Both are threatened by terrorism sponsored by neighboring dictatorships. And both countries see themselves culturally and economically tied to Europe and the West more than to the region in which they are located.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is right to echo the Turkish description of the military alliance with Israel as "a strategic relationship aimed at strengthening Turkey and Israel and it is not targeted against anyone." Even Jordan has defended the Turkish-Israeli relationship along these lines, saying it is not directed against the Arab world. In some ways, this formula is specious, because Israel and Turkey share a threat from radical Arab states and from Islamic fundamentalism. But it is an essentially fair description, since the relationship is a fundamentally defensive one, forged by democracies facing aggressive dictatorships.

For Israel, the challenge is to pay the closest possible attention to the care and feeding of this relationship. Mordechai's visit is an important step in this direction, and the momentum will likely be maintained by the visit of a senior Turkish official – possibly the deputy prime minister – to Israel in the near future, and a high-level trade conference in Turkey in early February.

Turkey and Israel, besides being natural military allies, are natural trade partners. Both sides have set a goal of increasing trade from the current \$300 million per year to \$1 billion per year. Of course, the military relationship is also economically significant, since Turkey is making major purchases of Israeli military equipment and technology.

Turkey has decided to double its order of Israeli Popeye missiles, in conjunction with a \$600 million program to upgrade Turkey's F-4 aircraft. Israel and Turkey are also pursuing agreements to jointly manufacture Popeye,

Delilah, and Arrow missiles, and possibly even Israel's state-of-the-art tank, the Merkava.

All of this will be symbolically reinforced by the much-anticipated tripartite US-Turkey-Israel military exercises in the Mediterranean next month. These exercises were recently postponed, in part, perhaps, because of the pending Teheran conference, where Turkey will attempt to water down a Syrian-sponsored resolution condemning the Turkish-Israeli military relationship.

With the many-faceted and warm Turkish-Israeli relationship deepening in an encouraging way, it is important that Israel not take this relationship for granted, and dedicate real effort to its development.

In cultural terms, the Turks do not regard strategic friendships as a temporary and mechanical intersection of interests, but more like a tight family bond. In such an arrangement, both sides are expected to not only unfailingly deliver on promises, but to extend themselves for each other.

The US had such a brotherly relationship with Turkey until 1965, when President Johnson changed US policy towards Cyprus. Relations have never fully recovered from what the Turks regarded as a betrayal, and since then they have been more correct than warm.

Israel today is enjoying the type of relationship with Turkey that the US had before the 1965 friction. Though there is nothing evident on the horizon that might shake this relationship, it is in the interests of both sides to work to maintain the existing high level of confidence.

Regarding this human side of the relationship, it is important that Israel quickly send an ambassador to Ankara who is acceptable to the Turks, even though the current nominee for the post, Tel Aviv University Prof. Ehud Toledano, would seem to be highly qualified. Fair or not, Toledano, whose specialty is Ottoman history, is perceived in Turkey as having tripped a hot wire on the Armenian issue. The government should pick a new envoy quickly, and should not subordinate the critical relationship with Turkey to the standard internal political wrangling over appointments.

Israel is not used to having good friends, particularly in the Moslem world, as the Teheran conference demonstrates. But being a good friend takes effort and practice. We are used to having to scrape our way through the world, to honing our toughness rather than conveying warmth. In the case of Turkey, we have a chance to cultivate a real friendship based on mutual respect, which we can only hope will be replicated more widely in the future.



A slap in the face

As has become common place in Israel in recent years, the question of the amnesty for Israel's fiftieth anniversary will never be discussed objectively, but will be measured only on the "Aryeh Deri yardstick."

Certain politicians automatically switch off when Deri's name is mentioned, and this is certainly true of the amnesty issue – as well as of a list of other subjects with which his name has been linked, either willingly or unwillingly – so that it will be condemned in advance to an unseemly burial.

However, one important fact should be noted: senior criminal attorneys, who are not in any way associated with the Right, are all of the opinion that the amnesty question should be examined seriously. They are in confrontation with the state prosecutors, who oppose any discussion of the subject. If so, perhaps the idea is not just some private whim of a few politicians and their associates. Perhaps the question really is worth examining, without fear and prejudice.

Those opposing amnesty point to the unfortunate results of the amnesty granted after the Six Day War. The vast majority of the prisoners, who were pardoned (and, in some cases, eventually found themselves behind bars again). In 1978, Israel's thirtieth anniversary, the then-attorney-general, and today's Supreme Court president, Aharon Barak, blocked Menachem Begin's initiative to enact a similar amnesty.

There are those who believe that Barak's objection is sufficient to prevent any further discussion of the current amnesty proposal. This is typical of a small group of jurists who have long believed that they alone are responsible for the formulation and preservation of the rule of law in Israel. Why, however, should the lessons of the 1967 amnesty not be learned so that this time amnesty is not granted to the wrong criminals?

An amnesty law could be designed to restrict its application to a defined category of criminals

RUBY RAVLIN

and crimes. A pardon should not be granted to those convicted of violent or sexual offenses, to those convicted of harming children or the helpless, to traffic offenders and the like. It is possible to ensure that the victims of such criminals will not be harmed a second time by releasing those who are unworthy of forgiveness. It may be possible to pardon and

The idea of the amnesty deserves serious public debate, but it would appear that there is scant chance of an objective discussion taking place

release prisoners, yet at the same time convert the rest of their sentences into suspended sentences, to become effective immediately if they return to their old ways; they can be placed under probation, as in the case for prisoners currently released after serving two-thirds of their term.

SOME people even propose enacting an amnesty which will only apply to a certain part of the punishment. This means that there will be no immediate amnesty and the streets will not be "flooded" with criminals, as those who oppose the amnesty concept fear. Instead, hope will be given to those prisoners who deserve it, a light at the end of the tunnel which will motivate them to begin the process of rehabilitation while they are still incarcerated.

Others propose an amnesty which will be individual rather than comprehensive, as granted by the president. According to this proposal – which takes the sting out of the claims regarding "trampling down the rule of law" – the same guidelines currently used by the release committees when dis-

missing the release of prisoners who have completed two-thirds of their term will be used for the amnesty. A prisoner who wishes to benefit from the amnesty will have to convince the release committee (which will be responsible for the amnesty process) that he is indeed worthy of society's renewed trust, of a second chance.

The restrictions included in the proposals detailed above could also be added to this one, as a precondition which the prisoner must fulfill before his case can be discussed by the release committee at all. This would ensure that those who are not worthy will not be pardoned, while still providing a second chance for those who have slipped and sinned. An amnesty of this kind would not constitute an alternative appeal court, and therefore obviously does not trample the rule of law, as claimed by those who oppose the proposal.

The idea of the amnesty deserves serious public debate, but it would appear that there is scant chance of an objective discussion taking place, in which the opinions of the police and the court system could be heard, alongside the views of the prison services, as well as – heaven help us – the opinions of politicians and public figures.

It would appear that those people who watch with dismay as the line of public personalities being brought to trial with fanfare and then acquitted in court grow longer are apparently incapable of discussing the amnesty issue objectively, and insist on viewing it as a shady conspiracy instigated by corrupt politicians.

Nevertheless, it seems that the public has already begun to understand that these people – whose approach is symbolized above all by the previous attorney-general, Michael Ben-Yair – are leading the judicial system and Israeli justice down a blind alley. The amnesty idea, besides all of the above, is chiefly a public slap in the face for these people, whose crusade against all politicians in recent years has been routed in the courts.

The writer is a Likud MK.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HISTADRUT SEDITION

Sir, – It seems strange to me that different people who practice "sedition" are treated in different ways. When Zo Artzeinu had a complaint against the government and showed it by blocking key roads, their leaders were arrested, tried and convicted of sedition.

When the Histadrut has a complaint against the government they also block roads. The even burn tires. Now they have struck the entire nation, causing much more damage than Zo Artzeinu did. But will their leaders be arrested and tried for sedition?

I guess it depends on whose ox is being gored.

LARRY ISRAEL

Rehovot.

HALF A LOAF

Sir, – Regarding "Partition Pragmatism" (November 30) by David Newman. Yes, half a loaf is better than none, but the Jewish yishuv's acceptance of the 1947 partition plan did not lead to "conflict resolution in a smaller area," which Newman implies may be achieved fifty years later. The PLO was established not after the 1967 Six-Day War to retake the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) but in 1964. Why should anyone assume that giving away territory (gained in defensive wars) to the PLO will lead to "conflict resolution"?

RACHEL SPRING

Ginat Sbornon.

HONEST COINAGE

Sir, – There is more than the absence of labels to confuse the consumer, as suggested in the editorial "Needed: Consumer consciousness" (November 25). There is a lot of well-labelled but spurious pricing, particularly in some well-known chains, because we have a demonetized unit, the agora, still current in prices.

Labels bear prices which it is impossible to pay in cash. When everything has a price ending in 49 or 99 agorot, which is paid rounded up to the next whole unit, the consumer is unlikely to be the beneficiary.

If the price is NIS 9.99, the

cashier, if asked, will automatically tell you that the price is NIS 10, and that's what you actually pay. Thus the consumer is a double loser. Even if he makes multiple purchases and there is only one rounding-up or down of the bill, prices will in many cases be inflated by unseemly marking-up within the unit "price."

Isn't it about time that traders had to price in honest coinage units.

J.J. CHERNS

GUERRILLA WAR

Sir, – In "Barak warns of 'guerrilla war' in the territories" (November 27), Labor leader Ehud Barak is quoted as saying "What is offered them [the Palestinians] now is inadequate and does not meet their demands. This can lead to scenes, compared to which the infitadah would pale. This is because the Palestinians now control territory and can mount warfare from their areas. Moreover, they are armed and can use rifles instead of rocks. This is a whole different situation."

What unmitigated gall and guile! What you have said is all too true, Mr. Barak. But you conveniently refrained from noting who brought this situation about.

who is responsible for ceding precious land to the PLO, who has enabled them to arm themselves, and who persists in refusing to acknowledge that the Oslo Accords, falsely labeled a "peace process," were a colossal blunder.

If our refusal to knuckle under to their demands now will bring about something infinitely worse than the previous infitadah, what will happen when they get even more territory and arm themselves even more and then find themselves confronted with our refusal to meet further demands?

MENACHEM BLOCH

Givatayim.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 9, 1932, *The Palestine Post* reported the opening of a new building of the Tiberias Hot Springs.

It also published a lengthy official account of the military operations of the six momentous days which led to the capture of Jerusalem on December 9, 1917.

There was also a detailed description of a gigantic task – the laying of the Iraq-Haifa oil pipeline.

50 years ago: On December 9, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that the British and Arab police were to be withdrawn from an area including Tel Aviv, Petah Tikva, Ramat Gan and Bnei Brak, with Jewish police taking over.

The week-old Arab disturbances took their heaviest toll of life: Fourteen Jews, three Arabs, a British constable and a British soldier were killed in various incidents. Severe fighting continued on the Jaffa-Tel Aviv border

and across Wadi Rushmieh in Haifa.

A Hagana high officer, Yehoshua Globberman, 42, of Yagur, was killed while he was driving his car in a convoy from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. There were a few stabbing incidents in Jerusalem.

All weapons which beleaguered Nahariya were permitted to have been taken away by the police.

Alexander Zvielli

The good light

WILLIAM BUCKLEY JR.

Latest month, the most prominent Cuban refugee leader, Jose Mas Canosa, and it is likely that, after decent interval, his special sf of anti-Castro policies will with him.

Jorge Mas Canosa was an unyielding Fidel Castro. Mas (his proper surname, under Spanish usage) went briefly to college North Carolina, returned Cuba where his father was a vintner, pitched into anti-Castro activity, fled the country in 1962 and went to work in Miami. He did blue-collar jobs, was a milkman, stevedored shoe salesman, and was an individual voice in the anti-Castro chorus of a swelling body of Cubans.

Some 30 years later he was the head of telecommunications industry head also of the Cuban American National Foundation (which capacity he hacked off conceivable anti-Castro more ever developed, though conceivably he didn't know about didn't back, one of the Keadys' ventures that called for ousting Castro by having one's cigars explode. By all accounts Mas was a prickly gentleman. He was imperious in manner unrelenting in seeking what he saw. The obituarist for *The New York Times* wrote that he "repeatedly questioned the patriotism of the who disagreed with him and thinned in some cases to ruin themselves or careers."

The Washington Times modified this charge: "A separate investigation by the State Department, inspector general said there is no evidence he (Mas) arraigned reprisals against staffers who disagreed with him."

But there's anything arguing on the first page. Anyone who disagreed within on the imperative of ousting Castro was a defective part.

One recalls the description above almost exactly characterizes the behavior and manner of Charles de Gaulle after the fall of France in 1940. De Gaulle had only a single objective, which was the liberation of France. His manners were abrupt and his demands so high as to cause

The decades-long campaign to unseat Castro fails, and Mas anosa dies

Winston Churchill to reflect that many people I crosses to bear, but that his social burden was "the cross of Lorraine." It is arresting to wonder what would be the memoir of de Gaulle if the Nazis, like Communists in Cuba, had had in power 38 years, causing large community of fatalistic shrink from de Gaulle as thumpily old general who wants up boycott French commerce.

WITH the death of Mas Canosa, it is likely that Cuban Americans will edge over toward the position that bluster is paying off. Mas egged on the radio Muri enterprise, one of which makes television transmissions to Havana – a hint idea except that the jamming of sides of Fidel, as far as we know have succeeded in shielding even Cuban with a television set for any shad if truth coming in from the United States. There is a bold reciprocity in the whole scene: The decades-long campaign to unseat Castro fails, and Mas anosa dies. But Mas' cause as strategically triumphant, if actually a failure. Communism worldwide is dead. It stalks along in Havana, Hanoi and Pyongyang.

We have diplomatic relations with Hanoi, and commercial traffic there is pretty legal. The best architectural scaffolding of the anti-Castro cause is gone. It is now simply a more powerful, sadistic caudillo, not the Caribbean freedom. The difference between him and the successors to H. Chi Minh is that 2 million Cuban Americans exercise an important political muscle in two critical states, Florida and New Jersey.

The Cuban patriots encouraged (and egged on) by Jorge Mas Canosa) will need to acknowledge that the anti-Castro case cannot convincingly survive the end of the worldwide communist enterprise. It becomes, instead, a vendetta. Americans in general do well to believe Castro, and his ways, but the matter of dignity, John Quincy Adams was correct when he said that we are fields of it every year but custodians only of our own.

Jorge Mas Canosa did everything he could while alive to bring down Castro. Maybe now he can rest in peace.

(Universal Press Syndicate)

Taking sides

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEP

(pensions paid out of the state budget). However, the solution should not be some hastily drafted, hand-written document, such as the one signed by Shohat and Peretz against the background of the last elections, and some compromise will now have to be found between the keeping of agree-

The Histadrut strike could have been avoided

ments and their reasonableness. But there were other underlying causes to the strike. There is no doubt that Amir Peretz – who will soon have to stand for election as Histadrut chairman, after having been handed the labor federation on a silver platter by Haim Ramon two years ago – gained in popularity from the militant position he adopted, not only amongst left-wing voters but amongst Likudniks and Shas voters as well. It is also clear that the major works committees, which stood solidly behind Peretz and were reportedly also those calling the cues, are not a bunch of pussy cats, just waiting to have their furs stroked.

At the same time, one ought not ignore the fact that as more and more employers prefer to hire workers on personal contracts or through manpower agents; as painful recovery plans are on the doorstep of a number of major employers such as Israel Aircraft Industry, and as the government's

ambitious privatization plans go into high gear, the position of organized labor and its negotiating power vis-a-vis management have been greatly weakened. The unions' struggle to stop the erosion in their status is thus based on concrete anxieties. That Neeman, ideologically, stands firmly on the side of the business and management, doesn't exactly help alleviate these anxieties.

NONE of this, however, justifies the Histadrut's initial decision to ignore the back-to-work orders issued by the labor courts. (The Histadrut only backed down in order to get Neeman back to the negotiating table. Its contempt of court is extremely disturbing, especially if taken in conjunction with the attitude of the hardliners to the secular legal system. The last thing the judicial system needs these days is a powerful non-religious social organization like the Histadrut poo-pooing it.

That the strike caused immeasurable damage to the economy (NIS 200 million according to the Manufacturers' Association), in addition to causing much hardship and aggravation to ordinary citizens (in the case of the closed airport) innocent foreigners, is beyond doubt. The question is whether the finance minister can honestly say that the workers would have gotten a fair deal in its absence. I am inclined to believe that had Neeman approached the conflict the way he has been dealing with the issue of religion and state in this country, the strike could have been avoided.

The writer is a political scientist.

Torah with a feminist twist

A group of women came to Jerusalem recently to study Jewish texts from a different perspective, Ruth Mason reports

The students sit in small groups, bent over ancient texts, asking questions, exploring, discussing points of law. While they study, the rabbi wanders among them, offering assistance. The teacher sits in a corner preparing the next lesson. Engaged in an age-old process of studying Jewish texts, these students, teachers and rabbis are in fact pioneers. They are all women, and they are taking part in Bat Kol, a feminist *beit midrash*.

"We need a place where people can study Jewish texts from a feminist perspective because issues of gender are at the forefront of what society is dealing with now. If we don't recognize that in Judaism, we'll be cutting out half the Jewish community," said Rochelle Rhinis, who founded Bat Kol along with Sarra Levine.

Ten years ago, Levine, then 23, was living at the Women's Peace Camp at Seneca, New York, site of the world's second largest nuclear storage depot. Levine grew up in a traditional Jewish home, keeping kosher and attending a "Conservadox" synagogue on Shabbat (but going to Hashomer Hatzair meetings on Friday night).

"At Seneca," said Levine, "I was exposed to a lot of leftist anti-Semitism. So I started wearing a kippa." She kept it on when she went back to her home in Ithaca. "Women would come up to me and say, 'I was Jewish once,' or 'I didn't know a woman could wear a kippa.' I began to understand how many alienated Jewish women there were out there. Most had left Judaism because they felt there was no room for them. I wanted to create a space for those women where they could be Jews and feminists at the same time."

Levine decided to go to rabbinical school, where she met fellow student Robins, daughter of a Reform rabbi from San Jose, California. "I always knew I wanted to start a politically minded organization that was Jewish and focused on women," said Robins. "I also wanted to create the school I sought but couldn't find."

Together they launched their first program in Jerusalem this year - a six-week *beit midrash* that attracted 15 women from the US and Israel.

"It is rich to be here," said Dr. Marcy Epstein, a lecturer in women's studies and English liter-

ature at the University of Michigan. Epstein grew up in Deal, New Jersey, at a time when girls were just beginning to be allowed to read *hafarat* in synagogue. "I didn't learn these wonderful things that might have enriched my life," she said. At Bat Kol, she added, "I don't have to divide myself as a Jew and as a woman. It's invigorating."

Bat Kol organizers launched their *beit midrash* in Israel because they have a strong attachment to the country and they wanted to make a contribution toward religious pluralism here. "Many Jews feel alienated from Israel altogether, with the ever-growing hostility toward any Judaism which is not Orthodox," said Levine. "We had women on the program who would not come to Israel were it not for this school. We are trying to create another place where women who don't fit the Orthodox profile can come and be Jewish in Israel."

Levine and Robins assembled an array of notable women teachers from Israel and the US, including Dr. Rachel Adler, Dr. Susannah Heschel, Dr. Debbie Weisman (head of Jerusalem's Kerem Institute, where the *beit midrash* is housed), Rabbi Eilat Ramon, the first Israeli woman to have been ordained as a rabbi, and Leah Shaked, the first woman to sit on a religious council. The days were divided into classes taught by the teachers on particular texts, Hebrew study, expressive arts workshops, and volunteering in social change organizations.

"Part of a feminist framework is to give at least as much as we take," said Robins. "We felt it was important for our students to learn about organizations in Israel working for social change." Shatil, the technical support arm of the New Israel Fund, helped provide placements.

"There are many feminist perspectives of Judaism," said Levine. "We aren't trying to offer answers, just to ask questions and come up with a variety of feminist readings. For that reason, we invited teachers from secular, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, and Orthodox backgrounds. That way, different types of feminism get put on the table and we can come together to make Judaism belong to all Jews."

What exactly is a feminist perspective on Jewish text?



Students hard at work at a feminist 'beit midrash.' Says Leah Shaked: 'This is my life's dream. There has been a flowering of women's Torah study; it has become the norm, and it makes me happy.'

According to the organizers, it means looking not only at what the text means and what the halachic implications are, but asking additional questions: What can we learn about gender from the text? What role does the text play in our lives as women? How do we relate to a text written by men that is about women?

"We also examine some of the larger issues that emerge from a gender perspective - social construct, hierarchy, role definition, ownership, sexuality," said Levine.

"Our classes do not just gloss over parts of the text that are difficult from this perspective; we really grapple with them," she added.

"When I was at Matan [a women's learning center in Jerusalem], the education was excellent. But when a difficult

issue arose and the women in the class would comment, 'That's terrible' or 'That's not fair,' we wouldn't take any time to talk about it. We just continued reading the text. What we have tried to do is create a forum where we can question what we read and make choices from an informed perspective."

"We are not taking ourselves out of the tradition but are injecting ourselves into it," said Carol Salem, a lawyer from Salt Lake City who was educated at an Orthodox yeshiva in Brooklyn. Salem said it was years before she realized how uncritical her education had been.

"We have a great need for this type of Torah study," she contended. "We want to use the tools we have as women to make the text come alive to us in ways that empower us," said Terry Winant, a university philosophy teacher from Fresno, California, who was raised as a Reform Jew.

Winant said she was attracted to Bat Kol because she has been trying to connect her feminist intellectual world with her Judaism. "We're a laboratory of what happens when we invade this space that has been male," she went on. "We want to have consciousness-raising conversations with the text."

"This is my life's dream," said Shaked, who taught Talmud in the program's fourth week. "There has been a flowering of women's Torah study; it has become the norm, and that makes me happy. What's special here is that there is a feminist perspective, which is rare but important. And every evening there is an attempt to integrate what was learned through the arts. It's very special."

The first week of the program focused on feminist theology; the second on sexuality; the third on social action; and the fourth on land and nationality.

Participants also spent much time on the Talmudic discussion of rape and its implications concerning women's sexuality and role in society.

The atmosphere at the *beit midrash* was serene and intense. "At other *batei midrash* you can

sometimes walk in and hear people talking about the news or their lives," said Levine. "Here, we can't even convince them to take a coffee break." "When we were studying talmudic texts on rape, one woman stormed out," said Levine. "What's going on in this room is a struggle. We have a

participants grew up steeped in Jewish study, while others had little experience with it. Somehow, the mix worked. The exchange of ideas was dynamic, highly intellectual and respectful throughout. "We value and honor our differences," said Salem. Robins and Levine said they

ing can happen." While stressing that she is not familiar with Bat Kol's work, Chana Henkin, dean of Nishmat, the Jerusalem Center for Higher Torah Study for Women, said she welcomes the study of Jewish texts by any group of Jews. "I also think there is such a thing as a woman's perspective," said Henkin. "A group of women studying a text will find things that men won't."

"Is what they're doing 'legitimate?' she asks rhetorically. "The texts belong to every Jew. I give them my blessing."

Rabbi Danny Landes, director of the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, in which men and women study together, welcomes the idea of a feminist *beit midrash*. "I think this is a fine, legitimate thing to do," he said.

"But as a *beit midrash* with a particular focus, they will face several challenges: one, making sure the creativity goes hand in hand with deep scholarship; two, they will face the same challenge that male *batei midrash* face - the limitations of having only one gender.

"And three, an ideological *beit midrash*, whether it's Shas or National Religious, results in a certain conformity. Torah study should explode ideology and conformity," said Landes.

"Usually, people who are very knowledgeable about Jewish texts don't have a feminist outlook, and usually feminists don't have much knowledge of Jewish texts. If you can bring the two together, then something creative and interesting can happen"

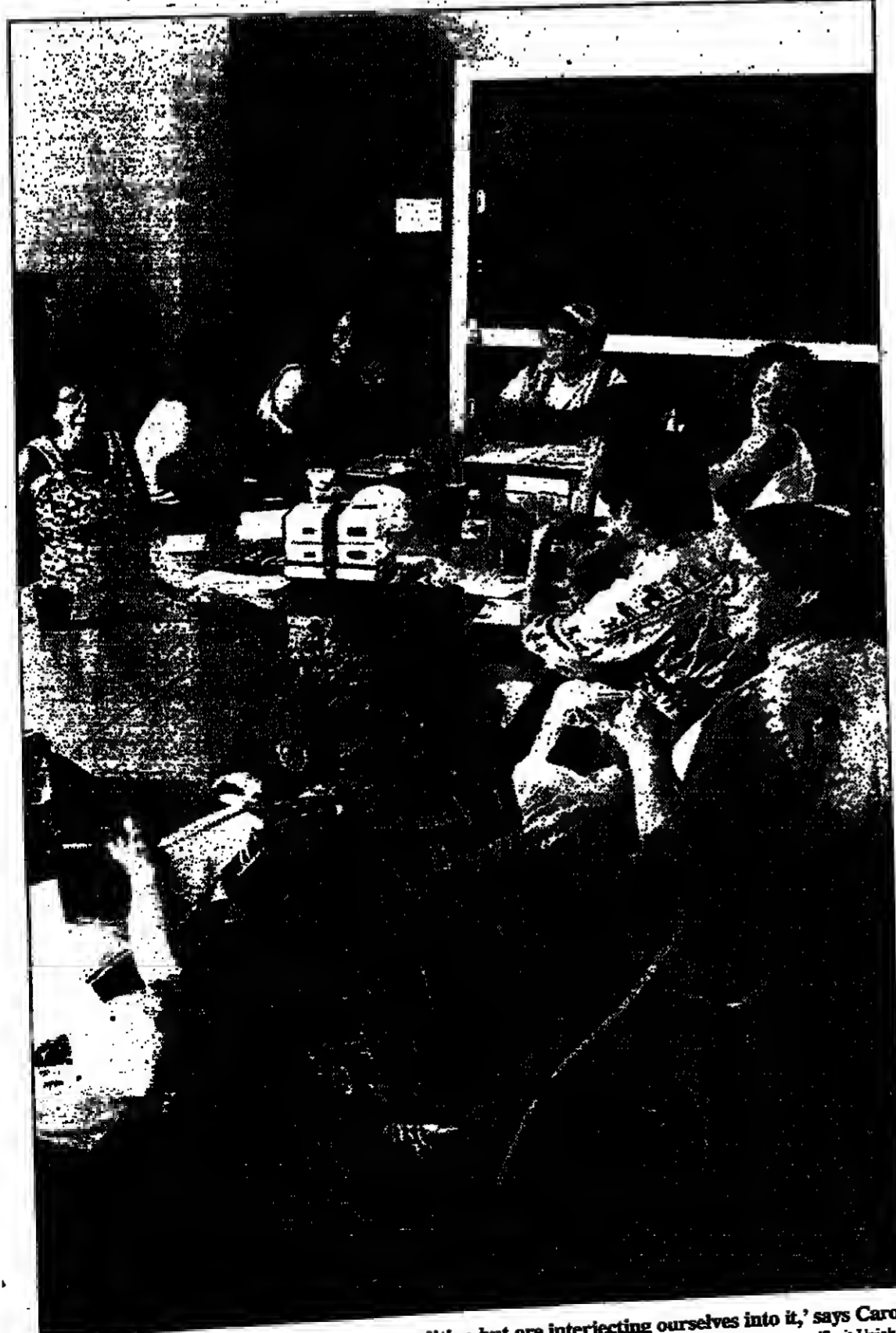
-Debbie Weisman

lover relationship with the text. We get really furious at it sometimes, but we also recognize its beauty."

The participants came from secular, traditional, and "Jewish renewal" backgrounds. No Orthodox women signed up, but Rhinis and Levine are hoping to attract them in the future. Same

had had an enthusiastic response from Israelis.

Said Weisman: "Usually, people who are very knowledgeable about Jewish texts don't have a feminist outlook, and usually feminists don't have much knowledge of Jewish texts. If you can bring the two together, then something creative and interest-



'We are not taking ourselves out of the tradition but are interjecting ourselves into it,' says Carol Salem, a student at Bat Kol.

THE JERUSALEM POST
Israel - from every point of view

THE JERUSALEM POST
"FORSAKE ME NOT"

It doesn't take 20 donations to give them warmth. Yours will do it.

Once again The Jerusalem Post Forsake Me Not fund for the needy elderly is organizing its winter campaign. Funds are desperately needed for heaters, heating oil, blankets, pyjamas, mattresses and warm clothing.

Strike a light for the needy elderly

Contributions can be mailed directly to The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000, Israel.

A striking situation

I regret to inform you that this column has been cancelled. I'm really sorry. I truly wish that I could sit down and write something profound and meaningful yet charming and entertaining. But it isn't going to happen. For such a column to get written, I would have to enjoy the luxury of sitting down at the computer, concentrating on my work for more than half a minute at a stretch, and forming coherent thoughts.

But for this to happen, my son would have to be comfortably taken care of in his day-care center. And the almighty Histadrut has decided, that this, my designated column-writing day, should be sacrificed to the workers' struggle for justice.

In an odd way, I feel like this is an important moment in my initiation as an Israeli woman. Judging from how frequently day-care and educational institutions go on strike in this country, I know these are the first of many such days.

Back in the "old country," it's snowstorms that keep the children stuck at home. Here, it's strikes. And many of the strikes are called at the last minute, which means that my Dear Husband already has a day scheduled full of meetings and appointments that can't be canceled and therefore is not

worked, underpaid, and stressed-out members of the work force — the working mothers?

I suppose the Histadrut's rationale is that my poor performance in work due to the fact that I have to deal with my child will upset my private-sector employer, who will in turn pressure the government to give the Histadrut what it wants.

This logic seems a bit flawed. First of all, I don't see my employers losing sleep over the fact that my kid can't go to kindergarten. Rather justifiably, they tell me, deal with your baby and your job at the same time or, if you can't handle it, shell out the money for a sitter or take a vacation day.

Either way, it seems as if it is the worker — me — who is getting squeezed by the strike, not my employer.



My 18-month-old son doesn't understand what's going on, no matter how many times I try to explain Karl Marx to him

pitching in as he should (toddlers underfoot can make it hard to write a column but even harder to hold a business meeting.)

Don't get me wrong. I enjoy spending time with my son — building with blocks, driving cars down the Fisher-Price garage ramp countless times, and reviewing which animals make which noises. It's fun. It's just that I prefer to choose when I do this and when I do my work, and I don't appreciate these decisions being dictated.

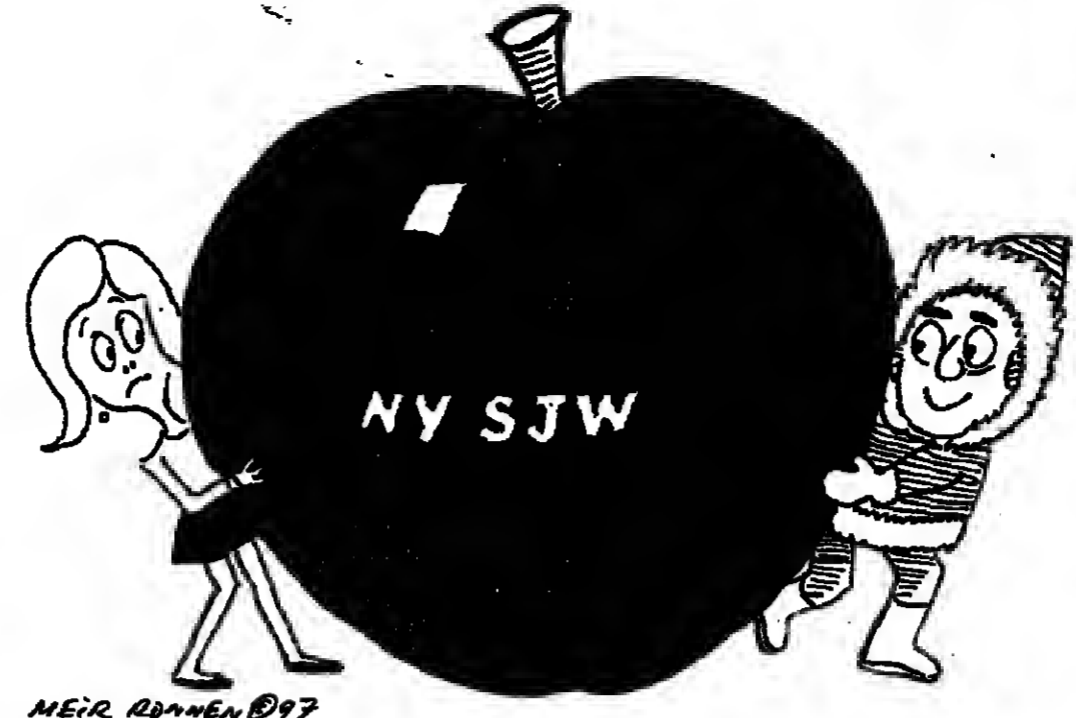
I think of myself as a Jewish liberal, so I try to stay sympathetic to the anger of the Histadrut at the Treasury's decision to renege on the pre-election pension agreement and Treasury Minister Yaakov Neuman's nasty remarks on TV (these are the reasons they're striking, aren't they? An amazing number of people striking seem to have no clue as to why they are staying home.)

But I'm having a lot of trouble understanding the decision to include the Na'amat and WIZO day-care centers in the strike. Can this move really punish the Treasury in a harsher way than it is punishing the most over-

on, no matter how many times I try to explain Karl Marx to him. I even tried showing him Peretz explaining the strike on the news, but he didn't listen; he just laughed at Peretz's funny-looking mustache. He's a baby, and his routine is sacred and necessary for his physical and emotional well-being and sense of security (my son, that is). This political struggle, however noble, is not important enough to turn his little world upside-down. Our toddlers and preschoolers don't deserve to be dumped on reluctant relatives or cared for by patchwork babysitters or by parents stressed out over missing work.

The strike will have probably ended by the time this is published. But the next time, Mr. Peretz, you decide to lead a struggle fighting for the "little people," try thinking about the really, really little people, the tiny people who haven't done anything to deserve being forced to pay the price of this strike.

By the way, *Jerusalem Post* readers don't deserve to be penalized, either. Which is why it looks like I've ended up writing a column after all.



MEIR RONEN ©97

Breaking the ice

Having exhausted his options in Fairbanks, a bachelor goes to the Big Apple to find a Jewish wife to bring home to Alaska, Anjetta McQueen reports

What's a nice Jewish guy from Alaska doing in New York City? Dating as fast as he can.

Jay Ramras, a talkative green-eyed bachelor from Fairbanks, settled into a sublet apartment two months ago and started networking for single Jewish women.

Since then, he's had 50 dates (more than he'd ever had in his life) and is the subject of a weekly update in *New York* magazine's "Nice Jewish Guy" column.

"I'm calling me the busiest bachelor in Gotham," Ramras said.

The 33-year-old restaurateur claims there were just two single Jewish women in his interior Alaska town of 33,000. In Alaska, single men outnumber single women five to three.

"The only opportunity I would have there is to fall in love with a woman because she's Jewish," Ramras said. "I want to fall in love with a wonderful woman who happens to be Jewish."

After trying singles services and importing dates from the Lower 48, Ramras decided to enter his last frontier: New York — home of nearly one-third of the nation's Jewish population.

But Fairbanks can be a tough sell for a New York City woman. "I'm an urban guy," Ramras insists. Intent on debunking the myth of the Grizzly Adams bachelor looking for a mate to gut his fish, "Fairbanks is not some Siberian leper colony."

Still, Fairbanks's high temperature last week was nearly 0 Fahrenheit (-18 Celsius). The sun rose at 10:21 a.m., set at 3:01

p.m. — and the days are only getting shorter.

"That's quite a sacrifice, to move to a place as far away and as different as Alaska," said Hillary Black, a Manhattan book editor who is 26, Jewish and single. "I find it hard to believe that a modern woman would just pick up and move with someone she doesn't know that well for the sake of getting married."

Ramras, who started a chicken-wing stand at age 20 and now owns four restaurants, said his quest began when he turned 30. It was time to settle down with a nice Jewish girl.

He flew to Seattle (which has a 30,000-strong Jewish community)

Ramras is intent on debunking the myth of the Grizzly Adams bachelor looking for a mate to gut his fish

30 times, bought ad space in the *Alaska Men* singles magazine and paid \$5,500 to a Los Angeles-based Jewish dating service, which yielded a short-lived relationship with an employee of the company. Ramras even imported dates from as far away as Texas and Florida.

His father, a Brooklyn native who moved to Alaska 51 years ago, told him to find a Gentile. But Ramras, who led the effort to build a Fairbanks synagogue in memory of his mother, calls

Judaism "the bedrock of my soul." He said that "Marrying within my faith is too important to me." So he went to New York, with its 1.9 million Jews. "Statistics brought me here," he concedes, "and LA is too weird."

Ramras is determined to live in his native state. He likes his two-bedroom downtown condo and his lakeside cabin where he goes snowmobiling.

Emily Rosenberg of Brooklyn — 36, single and Jewish — said she knows people who have visited Alaska and liked it. But she wouldn't go. "I guess I am too much of a New Yorker." Her friend Eliana Cook, however, might consider the trek.

"Why not? Life's an adventure," said Cook, 29, and also Jewish. "Whether it's 5 degrees in Fairbanks or 75 in Miami, if you're alone your bed is just as cold."

None of the dates have gone on the record, but Ramras gets high marks from a high school chum.

"He's a great guy, very witty, extremely intelligent," said Rachel Ring, 34, of Anchorage, who is single but not Jewish. Ramras wasn't exactly a ladies' man in high school, she said, but he was "always quite the businessman."

Simone Antonovic, a waitress at Baci, a Manhattan hotspot frequented by Ramras, says "he's a real gentleman, a bit of a chatterbox. I thought he was a womanizer or something until I saw his story on the 10 o'clock news," the 22-year-old Antonovic said, who is not in the running because she's not Jewish.

"His dates have a good time, though," she said. "They're usually the last ones in here." (AP)

GRAPEVINE BY GREER FAY CASIMIR

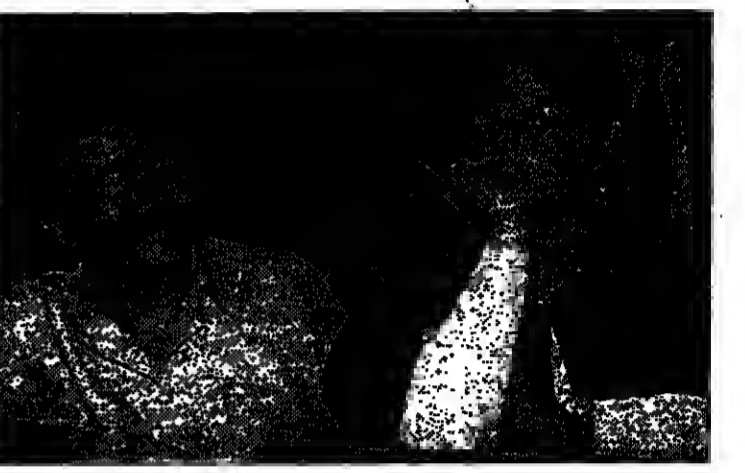
Not a good shot

Model-cum-actress Orly Levy received prominent coverage in the weekend papers, but at least one newspaper which featured the attractive daughter of Foreign Minister David Levy showed poor taste in its photo choice. The cool-eyed model, soon to be seen in the television series *Codebreaker*, was shown wielding a pistol. Some editor was sorely lacking in sensitivity in publishing the picture the same week that model Anat Elimelech died of gun wounds in a murder-suicide tragedy.

discussion after lunch. Ludmilla Tichon invited spouses to watch a series of dance recitals by talented immigrant youngsters. She told them they deserved the entertainment. As the spouse of a public figure, Tichon observed: "We share the work but not the glory."

GOVERNMENT ministries were non-operational during the big strike. On the first day, Sammy Tevet, the foreign ministry's chief of protocol, happened to be in his department when the phone rang. He could have ignored it, but he didn't. The caller wanted the kind of information usually supplied by a secretary. Tevet apologized that due to the strike, there were no

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that he is confined to a wheelchair, Able Nathan, who actively advo-



Dalia Rabin Pelossof in the limelight, with client Amir Peretz (Ariel Jerozolimski)

cated peace in the Middle East long before the politicians sat around the negotiating tables, made his way to Rabin Square in Tel Aviv last week to join the regular Friday peaceniks who gather there each week to pledge their commitment to Yitzhak Rabin's dream. Leah Rabin was on hand to wish Nathan well.

LEAH Rabin and her son Yuval are always in the news, but her daughter Dalia Rabin Pelossof usually remained more in the



Honorary Ph.D. to former president Yitzhak Navon (David Rubinger)

background until the advent of the Histadrut strike. As legal adviser to the Histadrut, she had no choice but to step into the limelight, and she looks as if she likes it.

AT A luncheon for the diplomatic corps hosted by Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon and his wife, Ludmilla, to mark the 50th anniversary of the UN resolution on partition, Knesset reporters reluctantly forfeited the main course because of a 2 p.m. meeting of the Labor faction. However, Labor MKs Yossi Beilin and Ophir Pines seemed in no great hurry to leave. Perhaps they were raised on the Napoleonic maxim that an army marches on its stomach. The luncheon afforded a break during an all-day seminar in which the diplomats were availed of the opportunity for a close-range acquaintance with the workings of the Knesset. Philippines Ambassador Rosalinda de Perio Santos, who has been here for four years and who spends time at the Knesset every week, said that she had learnt more in that one day than during her whole period of tenure. When heads of missions were summoned to another panel

secretaries around, but he said he would try to help. And he did. What is it they say about "the buck stopping here"?

ANYONE whose sole introduction to Thai food has been via the Thai fast-food restaurants which have sprung up all over the country was pleasantly surprised to find a tastier and more sophisticated form of Thai fare at the reception hosted by Thai ambassador Ronarong Nopakun at the Thai Embassy last Friday. The occasion was to celebrate the birthday of King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Guests were also treated to Thai beer.

ISRAEL'S fifth president, Yitzhak Navon, though long out of office, continues to travel the length and breadth of the country. Only a week after opening the Columbus exhibition at the National Maritime Museum in Haifa, he was in the Negev to attend the Ben-Gurion memorial service on the anniversary of the founding prime minister's death, and to receive an honorary doctorate at BGU.

SPEAKING of Columbus, anyone who doubts that the man who discovered America was Jewish should consult with Jorge Alonzo Lockward, ambassador of the Dominican Republic, who has thoroughly researched the subject. He claims that not only was Columbus Jewish, but so were several members of his crew, who were among the first white men to land on the island which later became the Dominican Republic. They all met violent deaths, says Lockward, because



Emma Thompson, backed into a corner

the Indians were unhappy that they were courting their women.

ALTHOUGH Barbara Streisand is still taking her time about formally announcing that she is getting married, word is that she has asked her friend, New York-based fashion designer Donna Karan, to make her dress for the occasion. But marriage apparently agrees with Nick Nolte, who is trying that noble institution for the third time. The lucky lady is Vicki Lewis, who is apparently undeterred by complaints by her two predecessors that Nolte has a heavy hand.

INSIDE most of us is a secret actor or writer, including the chipmunk of Oscar-winning actress Emma Thompson. While working on her back, the doctor changed tactics and produced a script which he'd written and wanted her to read. Considering the possibility that she could sustain an instant spinal injury, Thompson didn't dare refuse.



Barbara Streisand: Here comes the bride? (UPPA)

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(After) my best friend's wedding

Dear Ruthie,
My best friend, who remained single well after I got married, finally met "Mr. Right." I was extremely happy for her. At first, when she and her new husband could never find time to get together with us, I attributed it to "newlywed bliss." I figured it was only natural for her to want to be alone with her husband, to get used to marriage, etc.

But, as time went on, it became clear that there was more to it than that. I am pretty sure that my friend's husband is not interested in being friends with us. He has a lot of money and what is considered an important job. I am not only hurt by the snub, I am also hurt by the fact that when my friend was single, my husband and I always invited her to our house for dinner, and often tried to fix her up with men. She was practically a member of our family. My children have always considered her their aunt.

I once tried to talk to her about this delicately. She got embarrassed, and hinted that her husband doesn't like to socialize much, since he is "too busy." This doesn't seem to interfere with the rest of their social life, however.

I am very upset with this man for coming between us. What can I do?

Snubbed by Buddy's Hubby
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Ruthie

Ruthie Blum

gone along with this is a different matter, however.

Your assumption that her husband is "snubbing" you might be false, and based more on a case of low self-esteem than on this man's actual feelings towards you. The fact that he has time to socialize with other people could be a function of his difficulty in making new friends. Perhaps he is simply shy. If so, there is room to alter the situation gradually.

If not, and your assumption is correct, you may have no choice but to forfeit the friendship, unless you are willing to work out an arrangement which enables you to see your buddy when she is alone. This might be difficult, if you continue feeling hurt by her choice of a spouse — one who is capable of snubbing you and your husband.

As painful as this predicament must be for you, try examining it from her point of view. Having remained single long after you were settled into family life, she probably envied you. She also may have felt patronized by your efforts to fix her up with men, even if she encouraged them.

Furthermore, she might have been so relieved to find "Mr. Right" that she was willing to pay the price in question.

Try, too, considering the likelihood that your friend misses you, yet fears causing marital disharmony by forcing the issue. And, as she is human, she probably cannot bear being caught in the middle of two different kinds of loyalty.

Whatever path you opt for, whether the "giving-it-time" approach, the "settling-for-stolen-moments" method, or the "who-needs-them-anyway" stance, keep all of the above in mind.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: ruthie@jpost.co.il

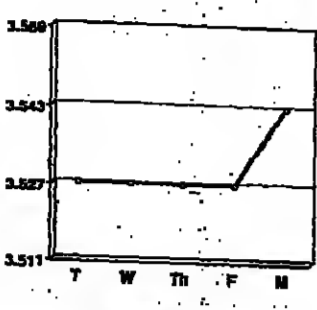
DRIVE CAREFULLY

July in Italy

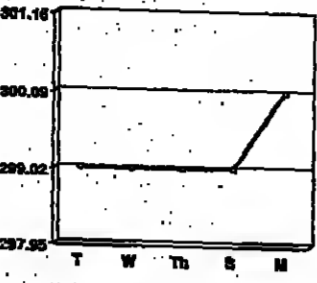
MARKETS

in brief

DOLLAR / SHEKEL



MAOF INDEX



GOLD

\$ per ounce

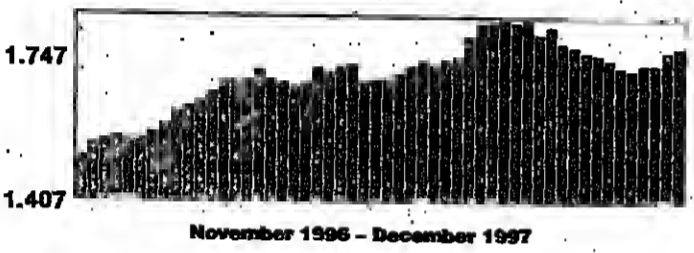


OIL

\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Hammer: Privatization receipts must fund budget

Education Minister Ze'evim Hammer yesterday demanded some of this year's receipts from privatization be used to prevent cuts to funding for health care, child allowances and the education budget. In the first 11 months of the year, the government received NIS 7.9 billion from asset sales. "This sum is far higher than the early forecasts," the minister said in a statement. "This shows that the state does have money and should use at least some of it." The Treasury has made it clear that income from privatization will be used to reduce government debt. *David Harris*

Bezeq Int'l to appeal Tadmor's findings

Bezeq International will, within 10 days, appeal against Antitrust Authority Director-General David Tadmor's finding that Bezeq misled the public regarding the prices it charged customers. In the application filed yesterday with the Antitrust Court, Bezeq International said that it is preparing an appeal against the commissioner's finding, and had just received the investigation material from Tadmor. Tadmor agreed to postpone the deadline for filing an appeal, and so the court followed suit. *Globes*

Manufacturers, top PA civil servants to meet

The Manufacturers Association will host leading civil servants from the Palestinian Authority tomorrow to discuss investments and trade in the PA areas. During the first half of this year, Israeli exports to the PA dropped 12 percent, to \$681 million, while imports remained stable at \$107m, according to Association data. *David Harris*

IEC explains high wages

The Israel Electric Corporation yesterday issued a statement explaining its wages policy following publication of Central Bureau of Statistics data stating IEC wages averaged NIS 13,185 in September, 135% above the national average. "The company's employees are systematically portrayed as earning way above the average. This is not a sin, but the reader does see the precise data in the various reports so that his judgement is liable to be impaired by the way the information is presented," the statement said. The company maintains that the average number of hours worked by employees is among the highest in the economy - 47 hours per week - while the average among all employees is 40.8 hours. *David Harris and news agencies*

EU: Israel is breaching cumulation laws

Agreement on jointly produced Palestinian-Israeli exports expected soon

By DAVID HARRIS

There is considerable evidence to show that Israel is breaching export laws by shipping to Europe goods jointly produced in Israel and the Palestinian areas, sources in Brussels said last night.

Despite efforts in Jerusalem to exempt such products from liability for customs duties to the European Union, Belgium says there must first be considerable progress in other economic areas before agreement can be reached.

Currently, the EU does not extend its separate free-trade agreements with the Palestinian Authority and Israel to products

manufactured in the two territories, a fact which is angering Israeli civil servants and industrialists.

The Industry and Trade Ministry's protest against the lack of facility for cumulation between Israel and the EU was added to on Sunday by the Manufacturers Association. The association's president, Dan Propper, accused the EU of paying lip service to the peace process and "scheming against the Palestinian economy."

The EU's failure to give free-trade status to jointly produced goods, particularly from the soon-to-be-completed Karni industrial park, flies in the face of the efforts

to aid the PA economy and the peace process in general, said Propper.

The EU applies regional cumulation to the Maghreb (Algeria, Morocco and Algeria), and the Industry and Trade Ministry is now pushing to achieve similar status for Israel and the PA.

Propper is recommending that the EU accept a similar set-up to that agreed last month between the US, Israel and Jordan. That agreement allows for goods produced at Irbid in Jordan with substantial input from Israel to be exported to the US under an extension of Israel's Free Trade Agreement with the US.

PA Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Maher Masri and EU diplomats said yesterday there are various examples of Israelis doing at least some manufacturing in the PA areas before exporting them to Israel, particularly in the clothing industry.

"We have seen 'Made in Israel' labels in factories in Gaza for example," said one Brussels source. "There's de facto cumulation. Everyone knows it's going on," said another.

"Israel has no right to enjoy these benefits," said Masri, alleging that Israel is exporting these goods under its Free Trade Agreement. "This must be

resolved before anyone can operate with the EU."

Among the EU's key demands is a comprehensive solution to existing customs problems, including allowing for Palestinian involvement at crossing points.

"I really hope the whole issue will be sorted out within two months," Customs and VAT Authority Director Moti Ayalon said yesterday.

Ayalon's confidence is shared by Brussels. With a trade agreement with Egypt imminent, that should give added impetus to an Israel-PA-Jordan-Egypt cumulation arrangement, said one EU official.

Treasury: Pension deal saves NIS 5-6b.

By DAN GERSTENFELD and DAVID HARRIS

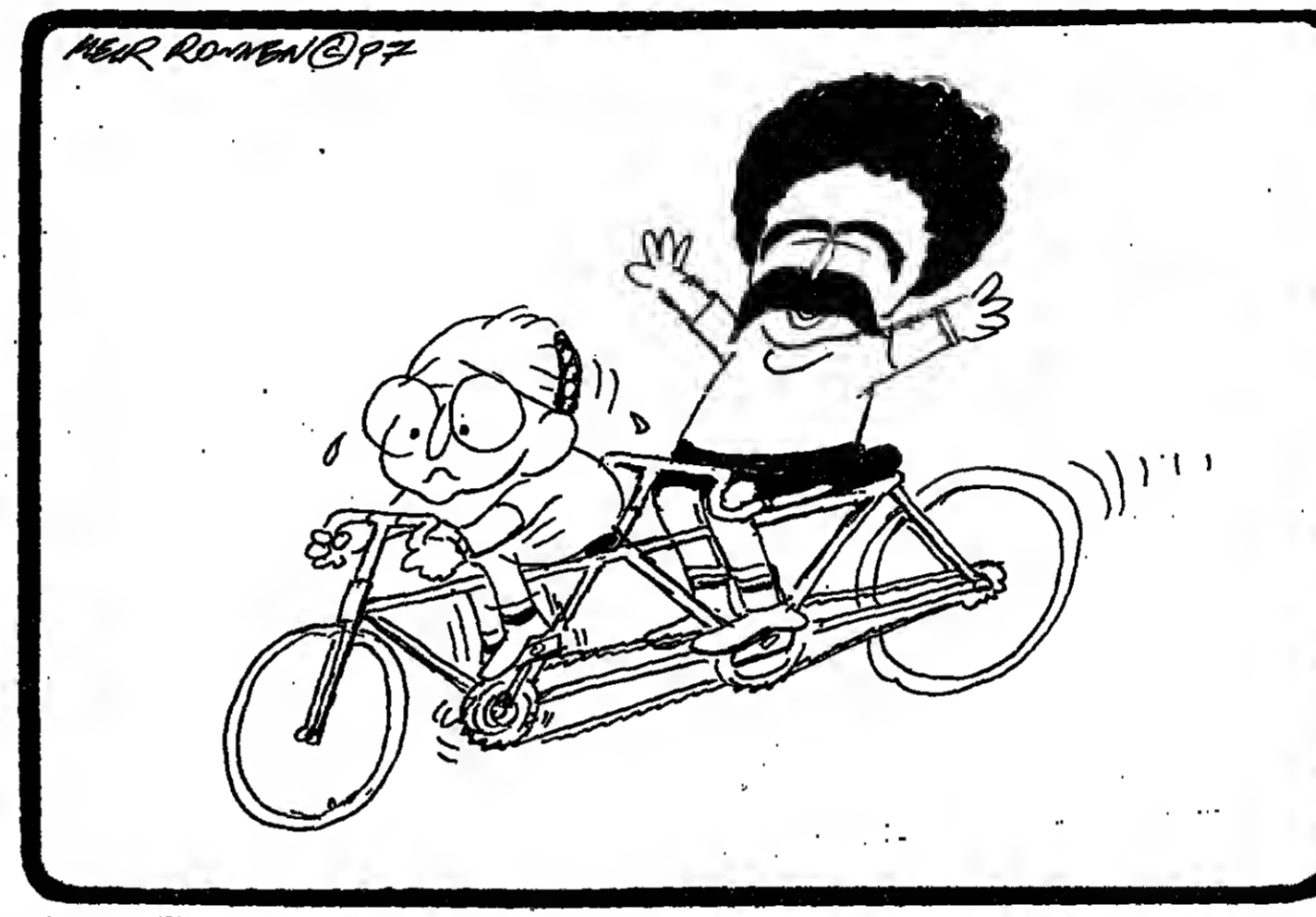
The new pension arrangements agreed upon in principle between the Finance Ministry and Histadrut will save the country an actuarial deficit of NIS 5-6 billion, Treasury pensions head Tzipi Sammet said yesterday.

This is the likely outcome of a change in the so-called 'yellow agreement' between former Labor finance minister Avraham Shohat and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz, signed two weeks before

That hand-written document, aimed to base pensions on an entire working career, as opposed to the new system of using the most recent three years in a job as a basis. That agreement said those retiring on the old system would receive 60 percent of the difference between the new and old systems for five years, which could have amounted to as much as several thousand shekels per month for each worker, according to Sammet.

The tentative agreement between Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and Peretz allows for payments of up to 60% as long as they are no greater than a monthly NIS 650 over an indefinite period.

While the five-year system and the indefinite period would result in the same financial outcome, Sammet and Neeman claim that the five-year rule would never prove watertight in court and the Shohat-Peretz proposal would also have to be applied indefinitely, which could cause some NIS 5-6b. of additional actuarial deficit.



CBS to change housing index calculation

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Central Bureau of Statistics said yesterday that it will start publishing information about building statistics on a monthly basis.

Until now, the figures were published each quarter. The CBS also will change the way in which the indicators are calculated. From now on, the calculation will be based on building permits and approvals given by local authorities and by building and planning committees. The CBS said that these permits reflect the building potential and are therefore an

important indicator for changes in the housing industry.

In addition, in 1998 the CBS will conduct a new survey on the beginning and ending of housing projects and sales of apartments from private builders.

The survey will examine the situation in most of the towns. Until now, the surveys only covered the development in the 24 biggest cities.

A spokesman for the CBS said that it also is examining changing the way it calculates the housing index, which is the most important

factor in the consumer price index. In the past, there has been much criticism of the way in which housing prices are measured. One of the main arguments was that it does not reflect the real changes in housing prices, which in turn leads to higher CPI figures.

The spokesman said that a special committee, which was established seven months ago, has presented an interim report. He said that it appears the committee will recommend the measuring of the housing prices based on rent prices and not on sales of second-hand apartments as is done today.

UBS-SBC to be world's second-largest bank

By RETO GREGGI

ZURICH - Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corp. said yesterday that they will merge in a share swap, creating the world's second-largest bank.

UBS shareholders will get five shares in the new bank for each UBS bearer share, while holders of SBC registered shares will get one share for each. SBC holders will get 1/13 new share for each share. UBS investors thus get a 60 percent stake in the new banking giant, which will be led by current SBC Chief Executive Marcel Ospel.

The merger will lead to 13,000 job cuts over four years and will create the world's largest money manager with 1.32 trillion Swiss francs (\$910 billion) in assets under management. The company also will be Switzerland's biggest retail bank and, as an investment bank, will own SBC Warburg of the UK and US-based Dillon Read and have offices around the world.

"In the long term this is definitely positive, and the shares have potential because of the earnings increase that lies ahead," said Michael Krinner, a portfolio manager at Bank fuer Handel & Effekten. "It's also more evidence that the consolidation in the industry is continuing."

Last month, Travelers Group Inc. completed the \$9.3b. acquisition of Salomon Inc., while in June Morgan Stanley Group Inc. and Dean Witter, Discover & Co. completed their \$11b. merger. First Union Corp. of the US is offering \$16.1b. for CoreStates Financial Corp.

UBS shares jumped as much as 15%, while SBC shares gained as much as 8% amid expectations the United Bank of Switzerland, as the company will be called, will deliver on its promise to raise net income to 10-11b. francs by 2002, more than twice today's combined earnings. That brought the combined market value of the companies' shares to 91.7b. francs, from 84b. francs on Friday.

"This is extreme," said Joerg Lorenz, who manages more than 1b. francs at Swissca Portfolio Management, some of it in banking shares. "It's excellent news for shareholders, but whether it's good for Switzerland is another question."

About 7,000 jobs will be cut in Switzerland, more than in any previous program of Swiss corporate firings. When Ciba-Geigy AG and Sandoz AG united to form Novartis AG last year, the two companies shed 3,500 jobs at home amid 12,000 job cuts worldwide.

"We needed a partner to digest the huge infrastructure costs and remain in a top position in the accelerating consolidation," Ospel said.

The merger comes as Swiss banks cut costs at home and expand abroad in a bid to raise returns for shareholders. SBC and UBS had returns on equity of less than 7%, on average, over the past five years.

The new bank aims for a return on equity of 15-20%, Ospel said, catching up with rivals such as

Citibanc, which averaged a 19% return on equity in the past five years, and Merrill Lynch & Co., which averaged 23% in the same period.

UBS said the merger will give the company a platform to do more business in retail banking abroad and to continue to expand in investment banking. The private banking division, the companies' main earnings pillar, will continue to grow in Asia and the US, UBS said.

UBS Chief Executive Mathis Caballaverta will become United Bank of Switzerland's chairman. Georges Blum, SBC chairman, and Robert Studer, UBS chairman, both will retire. The companies expect to save 3-4b. francs per year within four years as they cut their combined work force of 56,000 by almost a quarter.

UBS and SBC will ask shareholders to approve the merger at meetings on February 3 and 4 respectively. The merger will be tax-free for shareholders. BZ Group, a bank and investment company chaired by Martin Ebner, which owns 10% of UBS as well as shares in SBC, said the merger plan is "positive."

The banks expect the merger to be completed by May, once they have antitrust approval. Ospel said. The merger needs Swiss, European and US antitrust approval, the banks said at a press conference in Zurich. The banks said a total of 6,000 jobs worldwide will be lost in investment banking, with 5,000 jobs going in retail banking, 1,000 in private banking and 1,000 elsewhere.

In 1997, the companies will take charges totaling 7b. francs to reorganize, which will probably lead to a net loss, UBS and SBC said. Last year, the banks posted their first ever losses after taking multi-billion franc charges for bad domestic loans.

(Bloomberg)

Merger to change global finance

ZURICH - Top Swiss banks decided yesterday to merge to create a banking giant worth \$60 billion which will be the world's largest fund manager, controlling almost one trillion dollars of funds.

The creation of the United Bank of Switzerland, the product of the merger in May next year of Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) and Swiss Bank Corp (SBC), will bring with it the certainty of job

cuts, intensified competition and restructuring in an industry whose landscape will never look quite the same again, analysts said.

It will have total combined assets of \$657.8b., coming second only to Japan's Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi. With a current market valuation of \$60b., it will be the world's fifth-largest financial group, after HSBC and Lloyds TSB Group, both based in London. Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi and the US-based Citicorp.

Operating in investment banking under the name of Warburg Dillon Read, it also will prove a catalyst for a massive shake-out, cornering strong positions in bonds, equities and corporate finance.

Analysts forecast the new group could become the world's largest player in the international debt markets, assuming it can rid itself of the two banks' overlapping business in Europe and expand into the US.

Foreign exchange liquidity could suffer as the number of market players quoting prices falls, exacerbating a trend started by the merger in recent years of major players such as Chase and Chemical in the US and of the Bank of Tokyo and Mitsubishi.

The marriage of UBS and SBC, tailored to create the critical mass required for a player on the world banking stage, will force the arm

of smaller groups struggling to compete.

The once-dominant globally Swiss banks have ceded their place at the top of the world financial rankings to a succession of Asian and North American groups, themselves formed through mergers and alliances.

Yesterday's announcement was born of a desire to defend Swiss interests. SBC chairman Georges Blum told a news

conference. "It is in the general [Swiss] interest that two strong and solid Swiss banks should join forces.

Individually, they might otherwise find themselves in partnerships where the Swiss interests could no longer be safeguarded to the same extent," he said.

This will provide a crumb of comfort to the 13,000 bank employees worldwide who the banks said will lose their jobs as a result of the merger.

"My feeling is it [the merger] is good. They will get a bonus and find another job easily. There is always a shortage of good people," an industry head-hunter said.

One employee set to gain from the fusion is UBS chief executive Mathis Caballaverta, who will be chairman of the new group. Both Georges Blum and UBS chairman Robert Studer are to step down.

Shares in both bank groups jumped on the announcement after rising strongly last week amid feverish speculation that a marriage was in the works.

But the small matter of antitrust approval could yet rule out a merger. The deal is still subject to scrutiny under EU rules which prevent the creation of strengthening or dominant positions by companies which have substantial business in the EU. It also must meet Swiss and US antitrust requirements. (Reuters)

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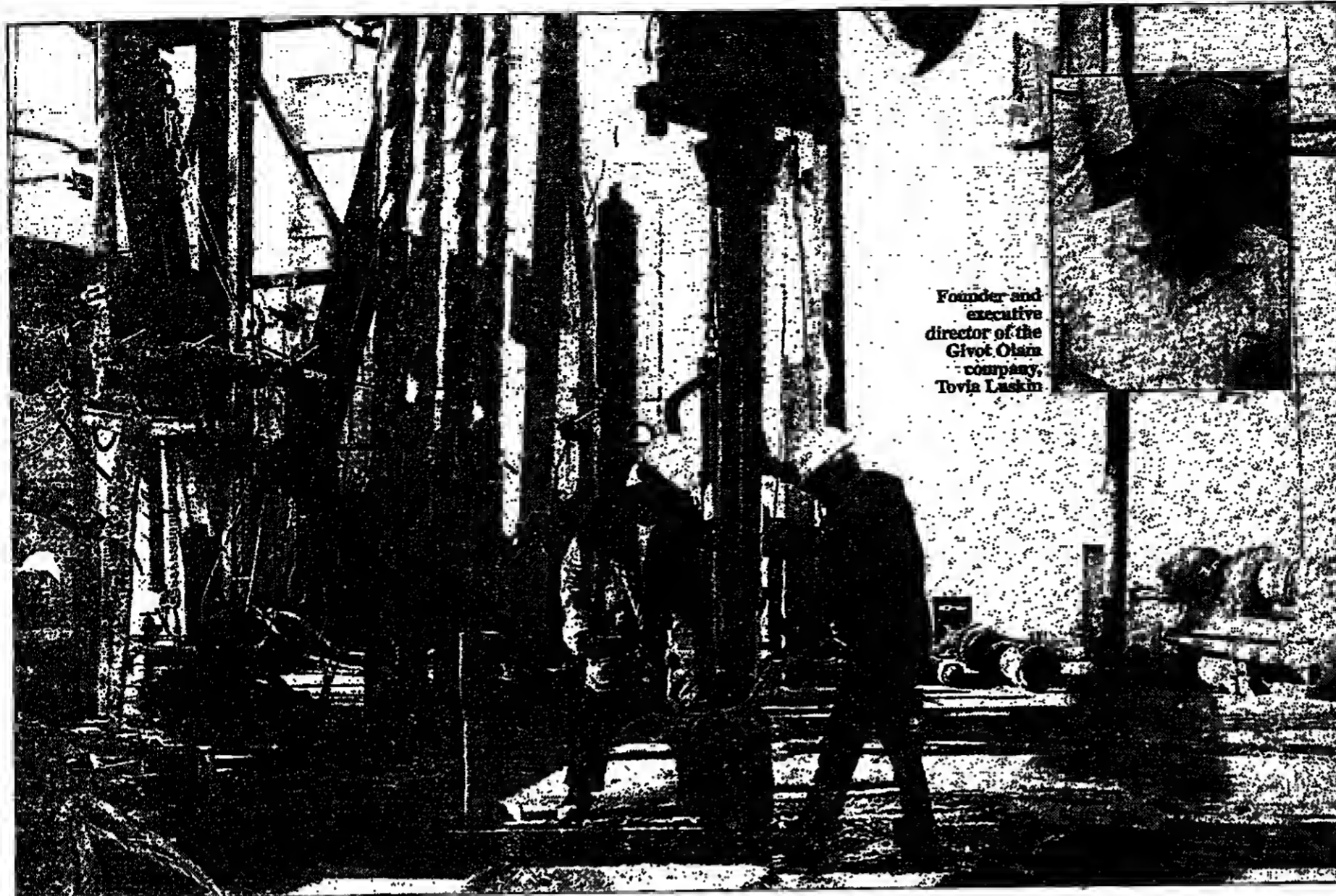
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Where God and geology meet

Armed with a biblical passage, a blessing from the Lubavitcher rebbe and a team of scientists, a new immigrant searches for oil in the untapped territory of Rosh Ha'ayin



Founder and executive director of the Givot Olam company, Tovia Luskun

By PATRICIA GOLAN

Israel may be surrounded by oil-rich countries, but its own long-hoped-for oil boom has largely been a bust. Israel's wells only supply less than one percent of the country's gas and oil needs. But recently, a new exploration company, Givot Olam, announced, it had discovered a reservoir containing one billion barrels of recoverable oil. To date, what little oil has been found in Israel has been in the south. But, a year ago, pursuing a theory that Israel is linked to the regional petroleum system known as the Palmyra - or Syrian - basin, Givot Olam sunk a test bore-hole in Rosh Ha'ayin, in central Israel, an area where no one had drilled before. Tests of the light crude oil extracted from that bore-hole indicate it comes from the same oil "province" that has enriched Saudi Arabia and other Middle East countries. The founder and executive

director of the Givot Olam company is Russian immigrant Tovia Luskun. "We are talking about a completely new basin, a totally unexplored part of the most prolific petroleum system in the world," says Luskun. "About 70 percent of the world's oil reserves are here. We have proved geologically that this Palmyra basin extends into Israel. This is our contribution to the oil exploration here, and I believe it is a breakthrough." Luskun's inspiration to look for oil in Israel where no one else had looked before came from the Bible. Emigrating from the former Soviet Union in 1976, Luskun went first to Canada, then Indonesia and finally settled in Australia, all the while working as a petroleum engineer for large oil companies. It was in Australia that Luskun became a religious Jew and a disciple of the Lubavitcher rebbe, the late Menachem Mendel Schneerson. One day while studying the Bible, a phrase in Deuteronomy

caught the petroleum geologist's eye. The passage [33:13,15] quotes Moses who, before he dies, blesses the tribe of Joseph: "...and of Joseph he said, blessed of the lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath...and far the chief things of the ancient mountains; and for the precious things of the everlasting hills." What, wondered Luskun, could those "precious things" be? And what does "ancient mountains" mean? Luskun discovered that the medieval Jewish biblical commentator Rashi had hypothesized that the passage refers to hills formed before the rest of the surrounding landscape - quite a modern geological concept. "Rashi lived some 800 years ago, when there was no such science as geology," relates Luskun. "People then knew the earth was created in six days, and such a concept, that one mountain was

created before another one, coming from a religious source, was a bit strange. I found this puzzling, and I studied this further, and this is what brought me here." Convinced that the Bible offered geological clues as to where oil could be found, and armed with a blessing from the rebbe (the text of which now appears on the company's Web site) Luskun moved to Israel and set up his exploration company, Givot Olam. Hebrew for "everlasting hills." His biblical clue pointed him to Rosh Ha'ayin, which falls in the biblical domain of the tribe of Joseph. But while the Bible provided a sort of compass in his search for oil, Luskun has not used it as a 20th-century geological guide. Once in Israel, he assembled a team of fellow Russian immigrants, geophysicists, geologists and petroleum engineers with experience in the former Soviet oil industry. After two years of research, Luskun's team reached the conclusion that

the wells in Israel "have turned up dry because they have been dug in structures formed after oil ceased to migrate to the region, 190 million years ago," he says. Deputy Oil Commissioner, Avi Honigstein, himself observant, comments that Luskun "wouldn't put his money on a prospect that's only known by the Bible. He's looking for the hard stuff. He's a geophysicist, working on a scientific basis, and if he finds some biblical verses that assist in his prospect, that may be helpful. But I don't think that is the main reason." As a matter of fact, there have been others before Luskun who were inspired by the Bible to search for oil here. In the '70s and '80s, companies owned by American fundamentalist Christians drilled exploratory wells in Israel at sites based on that same chapter in Deuteronomy, but in a later verse, which refers to the inheritance of the tribe of Asher: "...Let him be

acceptable to his brethren and let him dip his foot in oil." On the basis of that citation, but backed by no geological evidence, the companies drilled wells in the area of Asher, north of Caesarea, but came up with nothing.

THE TINY quantity of oil found in the Rosh Ha'ayin test well is very different from that found in southern Israel. Independent petroleum evaluators have confirmed that the substance chemically matches oil from Syria and other parts of the large Middle Eastern reservoir. Luskun believes his next drilling will hit the heart of a huge oil accumulation, part of the pool that has provided Saudi Arabia and others with oil riches. But not everyone in the oil industry is convinced that there are billions of barrels just waiting to be extracted. One American oil company geologist was quoted recently in the *Wall Street Journal* as saying Luskun's claims, "While not completely unreasonable, do involve a major leap of faith." An apt phrase, considering Luskun's original inspiration.

The president of the American Society of Petroleum Evaluation Engineers, Forrest Garb, says all oil explorations are acts of faith. Garb, whose Texas-based firm carried out an independent analysis of the drill site, gives the project a cautiously hopeful one-in-eight chance. "We can't confirm that it is an absolute surety. But with the available data, we can't say that they're full of prunes. It is a plausible, reasonable, geologic interpretation," said Garb, interviewed by phone from his Dallas headquarters. "Even if we take a conservative 25 square kilometers as a prospective accumulation of oil, which would be about 44 million barrels of recoverable oil, on the basis of my economic analysis, and as audited by my geologists, that's enough to go fishing for." Honigstein says Givot Olam's findings are intriguing, since it's the first time oil has been found in the northern part of the country. But, he cautions, the existence of an as yet undiscovered, recoverable reservoir is still only a theory. "The findings of the first bore-holes were exciting from the geological point of view," Honigstein said. "But to find the reservoir, you have to drill there. And all those numbers, of millions and billions, and whatever of barrels, they have to be proved true. And when the oil will begin to flow, nobody knows."

as daunting as the search for oil itself. As Luskun puts it, "Those who have no problem investing in Israel politically, are not in the oil business; those in the oil business avoid Israel for political reasons." It's a problem shared by all oil companies operating here. Yossi Levy, general manager of Naphtha, Israel Petroleum Corporation, adds that foreign money is also tight because Israel's oil potential has been low. "It's not only political," says Levy, "there are better prospects elsewhere. But, since there have been no big discoveries here, we have to rely on the Israeli public for money." Forest Garb says there are some Jews in the oil business who are emotionally connected to Israel, "but these people are not the Mobils and the Exxons and the Shells who can afford to gamble \$14m. on a whim." But, adds Garb, "this will change if Luskun actually makes a strike, or even the inference of a strike. Believe me, there will be people knocking on his door." Garb, who has been involved in petroleum evaluations in Israel since 1967, terms the Givot Olam project a "high-risk, high-yield prospect." Would he be willing to invest his own money? "I wouldn't put my bread, or my mother's shoes dollars into it," says Garb in his Texan drawl. "But, this would qualify for the higher risk flyer category of my investment portfolio."

IN THE last two years, the Israeli oil industry has undergone major changes. The government has completely withdrawn from business ownership within the energy sector. In August, the last of the state-owned oil companies, Israel National Oil Corp. (INOC) was sold to Naphtha, which itself was privatized the year before. Yossi Levy says that now that it's free of government restrictions, Naphtha, and its sister company Isramco Inc. are aggressively pursuing oil exploration abroad. The companies now own oil producing wells in the Gulf of Mexico, Kazakhstan and west Africa. With its land wells in Israel virtually depleted, Naphtha, the largest oil company operating in Israel, is now hoping to set up offshore rigs in the south of the country. But offshore drilling carried out in the 1970s was unsuccessful, and the cost of setting up new rigs is extremely expensive - around \$20m. just for the structure. According to Levy, Naphtha also has plans to sink a new drill-hole, inland based on a theory similar to that of Givot Olam's, though the company intends to explore in the south near Sderot. "If we find oil in our structure, it means that their chances of finding oil in Rosh Ha'ayin will be much higher, but first of all, we are going to drill our well," declares Levy. The results of Givot Olam's first test drill are tantalizing. The company - and the country - are still awaiting the bonanza in the Holy Land.

Mitsubishi's new pick-up line

The macho, trendy Magnum truck may be Japanese in origin, built it's built in the rough-riding tradition of the American Midwest

Motoring



By Joel Gordin

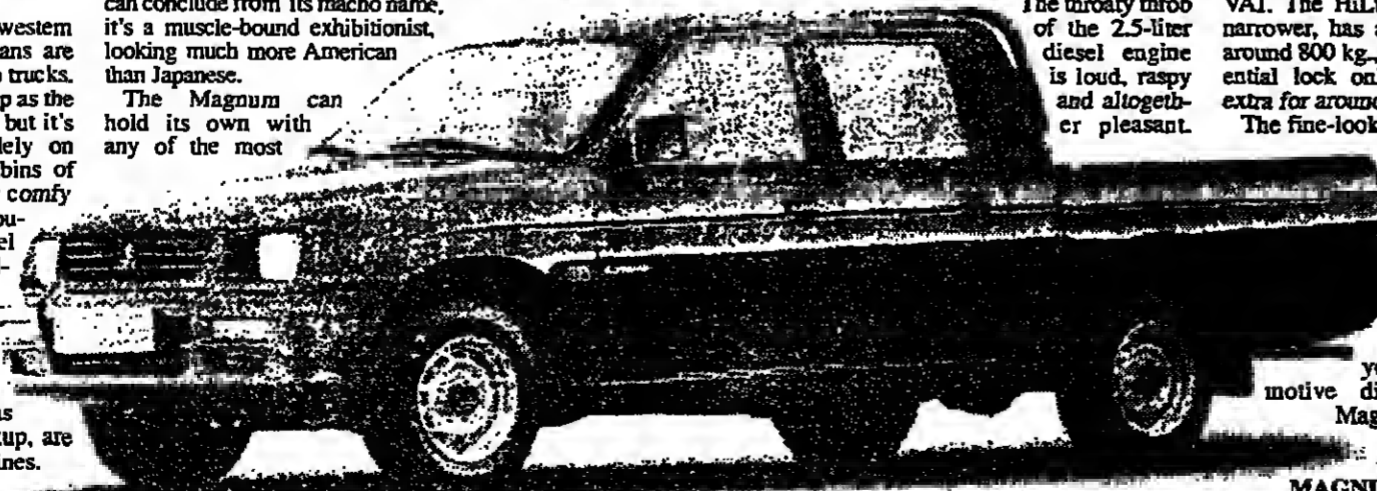
As every country & western fan knows, Americans are in love with pick-up trucks. Many of them buy a pick-up as the second family automobile, but it's not a decision based solely on trendiness. The double cabins of today's pick-ups can be as comfy as the interior of any limousine, while the four-wheel drive (4wd) and other all-terrain refinements make them as formidable off-road as the toughest jeep. Truck racing is becoming a popular sport, and in the US, some trucks, such as the Dodge Ram SS/T pickup, are equipped with hot-rod engines. The popularity of pick-ups is starting to blossom in Israel, especially among those independent business people who are entitled to reclaim the VAT on the cost price, i.e. pay 17 percent less than the rest of the population. A modern, double-cabin, 4wd truck is a combination work horse, family automobile and all-terrain sports/recreational vehicle. Practically all trucks sold now in Israel have diesel engines, and consequently boast excellent fuel consumption, as well as a long engine life. As an optional extra,

the owner can turn the "truck" into a van by fitting a cover over the loading box. And now Mitsubishi's new pick-up, the Magnum, is available in automatic shift. What more could one ask for? The Magnum is officially a spin-off of the L200, which has been selling here successfully for the past few years. In practice, the Magnum is a completely new vehicle. As one can conclude from its macho name, it's a muscle-bound exhibitionist, looking much more American than Japanese. The Magnum can hold its own with any of the most

are beautiful that way. One of the few vehicles left in which function is still more important than form. Automobile designers should get more of their inspiration from big trucks and less from fashion magazines. Some Jeremiahs have expressed concern that the Magnums that are sent to Israel are constructed in Thailand and not in Japan, but all the fittings seem solid and well

powerful factory-installed air conditioner, a five-sized glove compartment, and two front airbags. The seats are firm and comfortable, although three adults in the back seat is a squeeze. There is none of that unpleasant floating feeling common in most trucks. The ride on the asphalt is smooth and steady. The fat wheels and tires help the Magnum stop shorter and turn sharper. The throaty throb of the 2.5-liter diesel engine is loud, raspy and altogether pleasant.

can escape by flicking a switch and activating the differential lock. The Magnum is currently the most expensive pick-up available in Israel - simply because it's the only one with the diesel, automatic shift combination, including the differential lock as standard. The closest rival is the conservative, dull-looking Toyota Hilux, whose manual shift, diesel-powered 4wd costs NIS 99,000 before VAT. The Hilux is shorter and narrower, has a payload of only around 800 kg., and has the differential lock only as an optional extra for around NIS 5,000. The fine-looking, multi-purpose



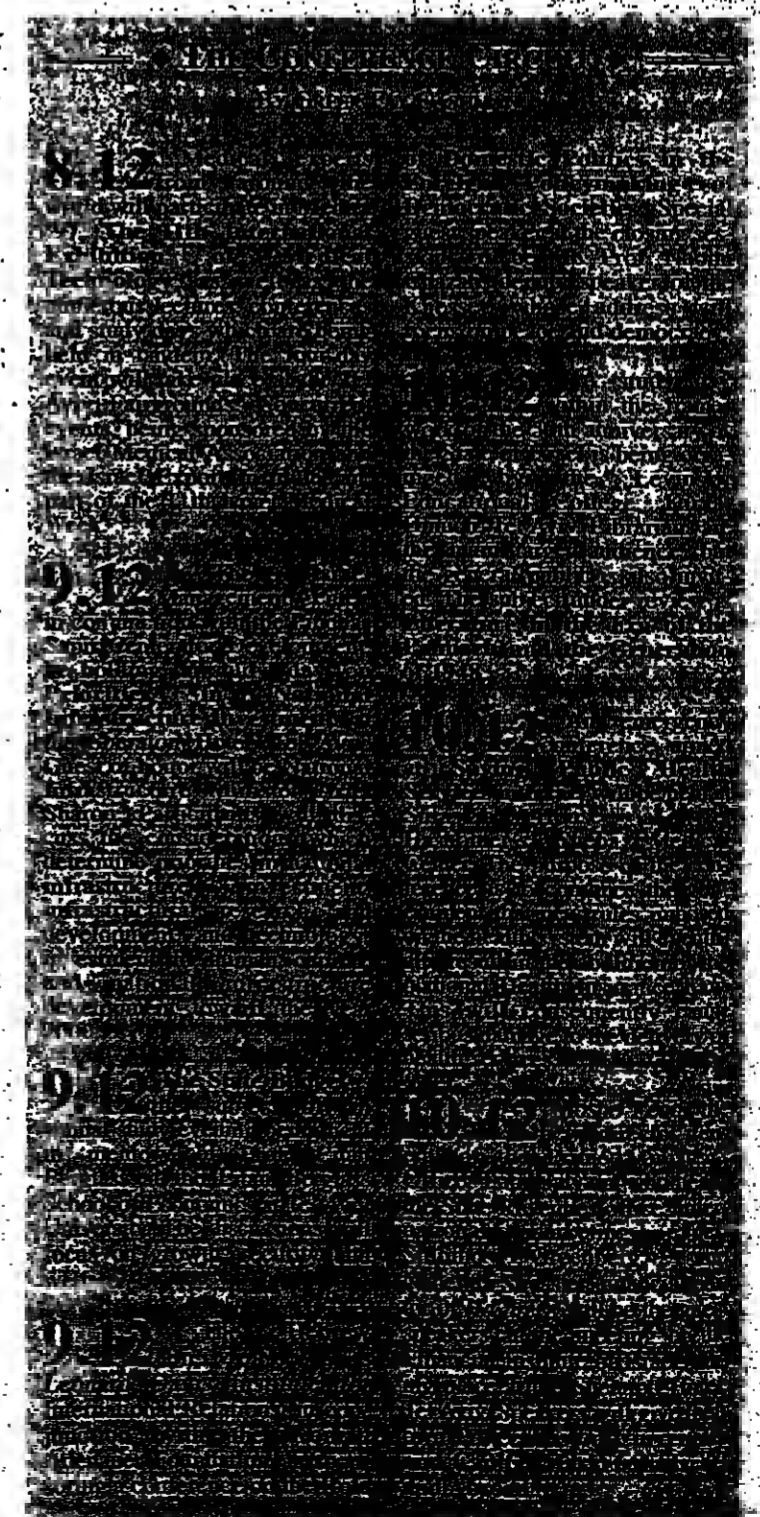
Magnum can be many things to many people. If you think that trucks are strictly for transportation, the Magnum won't make sense. But if you like your automotive dishes spicy, the Magnum is delicious.

MITSUBISHI

MAGNUM 4WD DOUBLE CABIN PICK-UP TRUCK ENGINE: 2,477cc turbodiesel HORSEPOWER: 100 at 4,000 r.p.m. TORQUE: 24.5 r.p.m. at 2,000 r.p.m. GEARS: automatic MAXIMUM SPEED: 1450 km/h. GROSS WEIGHT: 2,830 kg. NET WEIGHT: 1,735 kg. PAYLOAD: 1,095 kg. PRICE: NIS 107,607 (before VAT)

constructed. My only gripe about the interior design is that the steering wheel is too narrow, a disconcerting sign of wimpiness among all that brawn. The Magnum with automatic shift is available in GL trim standard, which does not include gizmos like power windows or central door locking. These are reserved for the GLS, which is only available in manual shift. The automatic-shift version, however, comes equipped with a

The engine and the four-speed automatic gearbox work well together, and while I doubt if the Magnum will win any truck races, it is nippy enough for local driving conditions. Road holding remains stable, even during demanding maneuvers that ruffle most other pick-ups. Off-road, the Magnum performs at least as well as any of the more specialized jeeps, thanks to its relatively light weight and high torque rating. If you do get bogged down in sand, mud or snow, you



Joel Gordin

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Change. Includes Tel Aviv, Time Warner, Time Mirror, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Change. Includes Management, WMS, Porsche.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Table with 2 columns: Currency and Rate. Includes GB Pound, US Dollar, etc.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with 2 columns: Index Name and Change. Includes DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, etc.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table with 2 columns: Index Name and Change. Includes FTSE 100, Tokyo Nikkei, etc.

DOLLAR CROSS-RATES (US)

Table with 2 columns: Currency and Rate. Includes Pound spot, Canadian (CAD), etc.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Change. Includes VF Corp, Valeant Energy, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Change. Includes Allied Domecq, BT, Biffar, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Change. Includes Accor, All Liquids, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Change. Includes Bayer, Commerzbank, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Change. Includes Deutsche Bank, Drescher BK, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Change. Includes Shell Transport, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Change. Includes Accor, All Liquids, etc.

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Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Change. Includes Deutsche Bank, Drescher BK, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Change. Includes Shell Transport, etc.

US COMMODITIES

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Change. Includes Cocoa (Mar), Coffee (Mar), etc.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Change. Includes Cocoa (Mar), Coffee (Mar), etc.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with 2 columns: Metal and Change. Includes Silver spot, Gold spot, etc.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with 2 columns: Metal and Change. Includes Gold (Fut), Silver (Fut), etc.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table with 2 columns: Metal and Change. Includes Gold AM fix, Gold PM fix, etc.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA ABA

Foreign financial data courtesy of ComStock Trading Ltd.

34 Ben Yahuda St., Jerusalem

Pacific Mediterranean Capital Markets Group

Stock broking, Equity & money research, Money management, Corporate finance

Jerusalem 02-63553153, Fax 02-625-3616

Jerusalem 02-63553153, Fax 02-625-3616

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Table with 2 columns: Deposit Type and Rate. Includes Patah (foreign currency deposit rates), etc.

Table with 2 columns: Currency and Rate. Includes Shkel Foreign Exchange Rates, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Buy/Sell and Rate. Includes Currency basket, U.S. dollar, etc.

These rates vary according to bank. Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Israeli shares close mixed following strike

Tel Aviv

Israeli shares closed mixed yesterday after some Israeli issues listed on Wall Street declined during the five-day strike here. Analysts also cited concern about the sale of an Israeli initial public offering at a lower-than-expected price and about a delay in another IPO.

Europe

UK stocks climbed for a third day, led by Lloyds TSB Group Plc and National Westminster Bank Plc, amid speculation more banks will join forces. Reports the economy is growing at a sustainable pace also boosted shares.

STOCKS

Maof 300.09 ▲ 0.36%
Dow Jones 8110 ▼ 0.4%
FTSE 5187.4 ▲ 0.87%
Nikkei 16131.57 ▼ 1.89%

which controls about \$16 billion in the UK equity market. "I do see this pre-Christmas run continuing."

Asia

Japanese stocks fell, led by steelmakers and chemical companies, as a weakening Korean won threatens to erode Japanese competitiveness.

The Maof Index rose 0.36 percent to 300.09, the Mishtan Index rose 0.08% to 289.09 and the Tel Aviv Continuous Trading Index declined 0.39% to 97.1.

The dollar surged to a 5 1/2-year high against the yen for a second day on speculation that Japan's banking woes may be too great for the government to solve. Japanese banks could hold as much as \$600 billion in loans that have gone or may soon go bad.

The dollar rose as high as 130.83 yen, its highest since climbing to 131 yen on May 13, 1992. In recent trading, it was quoted at 130.43 yen from 130.32 yen Friday. The US currency also was at 1.7873 marks from 1.7835 marks.

Silver rose for a second day in London as strong demand from jewelers and photographic-film makers reduced stockpiles to a 12-year low.

US bonds were little changed yesterday, leaving yields just above 32-month lows, amid expectations the economy will keep growing at a brisk pace with few signs of accelerating inflation.

their Korean rivals reduce prices further in export markets.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks fell 38.29 points to 8,110.84, snapping a six-session winning streak that had put the blue-chip barometer in striking distance of its all-time best close at 8,259.31, set August 6.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 stock average fell 292.91 points, or 1.78%, to 16,131.57. The won plunged amid concern Korea understated the amount of foreign-currency debt it must repay within a year.

The drop in the won could exacerbate already sluggish demand stemming from the economic slowdown in Japan and Asia, said Keiko Kondo, strategist at Merrill Lynch Japan Inc.

Steelmakers were the biggest losers on the first session, falling 7.2% as a group on the first session. (Bloomberg)

Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP) — Technology stocks rose yesterday,

Wall Street

and dwindling profits. More failures may not be far off, some analysts said. Weakness in the banking and securities industries is bad for the yen because it makes investors reluctant to hold Japanese financial assets.

Finance Minister for International Affairs Eisuke Sakakibara, who last week bemoaned the yen's weakness, refrained from making yen-supportive comments yesterday.

Three-month zinc fell \$7 to \$1,120 a ton on the LME.

Aluminum slipped amid concern that Asia's economic crisis is deepening.

Falling currencies and slower economic growth across Asia could reduce global demand for metal products.

The plan was proposed by Taku Yamazaki, a senior official of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

US bonds were little changed yesterday, leaving yields just above 32-month lows, amid expectations the economy will keep growing at a brisk pace with few signs of accelerating inflation.

US 30-year T-bill yield 6.09 ▲ 0.1

performance over the past 10 years, he said he doesn't expect bonds to do as well in the first quarter as they have in recent months.

Bonds slumped Friday after a report showed the economy added almost twice the number of jobs expected last month — though they recouped most of the losses as investors bet inflation won't quicken soon.

The National Poison Control Center at Ramat Ben Zion Hospital, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Precious metals

Silver rose for a second day in London as strong demand from jewelers and photographic-film makers reduced stockpiles to a 12-year low.

Global silver production has fallen short of consumption for almost eight years, according to the Washington DC-based Silver Institute. At the same time, demand for silver among jewelers and photographic film makers is rising.

Oil

Brent crude oil futures rose following their New York equivalents after a New York Mercantile Exchange report showed the number of contracts sold and as yet unmatched rose 5.3 percent.

Others

Cocoa production in the Brazilian state of Bahia is expected to fall to 2.19 million tons in try, will increase.

CURRENCIES

Dollar 3.5430 ▲ 0.45%
Basket 3.7946 ▼ 0.07%
Mark 1.9803 ▼ 0.65%
Sterling 5.8555 ▼ 1.45%

COMMODITIES

Gold \$287.75 ▼ 0.5%
Crude Oil \$18.24 ▲ 0.08%
CRB 236.16 ▲ 0.57%

Cocoa production in the Brazilian state of Bahia is expected to fall to 2.19 million tons in try, will increase.

US bonds little changed amid inflation optimism

US bonds were little changed yesterday, leaving yields just above 32-month lows, amid expectations the economy will keep growing at a brisk pace with few signs of accelerating inflation.

The benchmark 30-year bond fell 1/32, or 31 cents per \$1,000 of the bond.

The fundamental outlook remains favorable for the bond market, said James Conroy, who manages about \$5.5 billion in bonds for Salomon Smith Barney's Greenwich Street

Inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, rose at a 1.8% annual rate in the US through October, the slowest pace in a decade.

Even so, Conroy recently switched from 10-year notes to three-year notes in one of the funds he manages because shorter-term securities suffer less when rates rise.

Based on the Treasury market's performance over the past 10 years, he said he doesn't expect bonds to do as well in the first quarter as they have in recent months.

WHERE TO GO

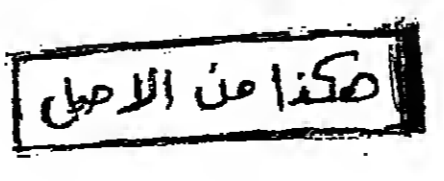
- EMERGENCY PHARMACIES: Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avigdor, 670-6660; Batsam, Salah o-Din, 627-2315; Shuarat, Shuarat Road, 561-0108; Der Adawa, Herzl's Gata, 628-2026.

- Blahik, 878-7818. Herzliya: Clalit Pharm, Beit Mezuzim, 8 Mas'oti (nr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pithul, 855-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight. Upper Nazareth: Clalit Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mail, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

- Ben Shimon 6232133. Patah Tzvi 8211111. Dan Region 7383333. Rehovot 9451833. Elat 8234444. Ra'anana 8523838. Jerusalem 6232333. Tel Aviv 549-1111. Karmiel 9854444. * Mobile intensive Care Unit (MICU) in the area, around the clock.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

- Notice in this feature are charged at NIS 28.00 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 520.00 per line, including VAT, per month. JERUSALEM: Conducted Tours: HEBREW UNIVERSITY, Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun-Thurs., 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg., Buses 4a, 9, 23, 28, 29. For info, call (02) 558-2819. HADASSAH: Visit the Hadassah installations, checkag windows. Tel. (02) 641-8333, (02) 677-6271. TEL AVIV: Museums: TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Surrealism, Prints from the Chayes and Eyalon Kramer Collection, René Magritte, A Centennial Tribute, Jan Lievens: The Sacrifice of Isaac, Valerio Adams - Retrospective, The Helene and Zygfryd Wolchak Collection of Modern Sculpture, Collections, HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Surroundings, group exhibitions by British artists on personal and collective identity. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. (03) 691-9156/8.



CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

The Israel Camerata Jerusalem presents a family concert today (4:30) at the Israel Museum Jerusalem.

JAZZ

HELEN KAYE

And it's more jazz, cutting-edge type, in Down Town Music, a new series which features some of New York's most innovative jazz musicians.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

THE GAME - A wickedly clever thriller and one of the smartest commentaries on the contemporary American mind to come out of Hollywood in some time.



Eli Gorenstein narrates a program for the whole family with the Israel Camerata Jerusalem.

Kara Unger. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance strongly advised.)

LECTURES

HELEN KAYE

Some people are afraid of opera because they don't know what it's all about. Fear no more. The Diaspora Museum, in cooperation with the NIO, is presenting a series of six lecture-demonstrations.

TV

- CHANNEL 1: 8:30 News flash, 8:31 News in Arabic, 8:45 Good Morning Israel. EDUCATIONAL TV: 8:00 Lie on the Screen...

CABLE

- ARABIC PROGRAMS: 18:30 Apropo - current affairs, 18:30 News. HEBREW PROGRAMS: 18:30 News flash, 18:31 News in Arabic...

PRIME TIME TV

- 19:30 News flash, 19:31 News in Arabic, 19:45 Good Morning Israel. CHANNEL 1: 8:30 News flash...

Table with 3 columns (1, 2, 3) and 8 rows (19:30, 20:00, 20:30, 21:00, 21:30, 22:00, 22:30, 23:00) listing TV programs and channels.

from a Robert Sherwood play about an escaped gangster who holds a group of people hostage in a remote roadside restaurant...

WEATHER: A map of Israel showing weather patterns and a table of weather data for various cities like Amman, Beirut, and Jerusalem.

WINNING CARDS: Information about yesterday's Mifal Hapais daily chance drawing, including winning numbers 7, 10, and 10, and a home delivery service for The Jerusalem Post.

HOME DELIVERY OF THE JERUSALEM POST: Please direct all inquiries to Tel. 177-022-2278.

MOVIES: A list of movies showing at various theaters, including 'The Full Monty', 'The Piano', and 'The Untouchables'.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 An amorous street assault is all confused (6-6), 8 Bowler who tosses up seafood (7), 9 Having members that get engaged? (7)...

Cryptic crossword puzzle grid with clues and a 'Quick Solution' section.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 Secret supplies (6), 2 Kind of nutmeg (4), 3 Grounded (6), 4 Pacific (al.) (4)...

Quick crossword puzzle grid with clues and a 'Quick Solution' section.

Cryptic crossword puzzle grid with clues and a 'Quick Solution' section.

Quick crossword puzzle grid with clues and a 'Quick Solution' section.

JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE: A list of movies and showtimes for various theaters like Madama Bovary, The Children, and The Game.

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Inside

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Page 18

Bremner memorial planned
Page 17

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Venables to coach Nigeria?

LONDON (AP) - The Australian soccer federation is willing to let coach Terry Venables take over Nigeria's team for next year's World Cup.

Venables, the former England manager who guided Australia's unsuccessful World Cup qualifying campaign, has reportedly been offered the job as Nigeria's coach for the finals in France.

Soccer Australia chief David Hill said yesterday that he could allow Venables time off to take up the post.

"I would want to discuss this first with Terry, but of course we're not in the World Cup and Nigeria is," Hill told BBC's Radio Five Live. "It costs us a lot of money to have Terry as coach, by our standards a lot of money, when we're not in the World Cup. So, frankly, it may be possible for us to release him from his contractual obligations for a period if he wants to." Australia failed to qualify for France 98 after losing in a playoff to Iran.

"Our bottom line is that we want Venables to play an ongoing role for Australia," Hill said.

Despite the speculation linking Venables to Nigeria, Wimbledon's Nigerian international, Efan Ekoku, remained skeptical.

"I would be very surprised if it was Terry Venables," he said. "I wouldn't put any money on him becoming the coach. I am sure we would benefit from having Terry Venables in charge. But I think, with just six or seven months to the World Cup, we are more likely to get a coach who is familiar with the players and knows African football."

Cavs, Pacers maintain win streaks

Knicks lose fourth straight road game against Philly

INGLEWOOD, California (AP) - The Cleveland Cavaliers and Indiana Pacers kept their winning streaks alive in different ways.

The Cavs won their eighth straight game Sunday night, beating the Los Angeles Lakers 94-84.

Wesley Person scored 22 points for Cleveland, which withstood a furious fourth-quarter rally to hand the Lakers their first home loss of the season after eight victories.

"This is a pretty good win for us," Person said. "Our defense is coming together."

The Pacers extended their winning streak to six when Reggie Miller hit a baseline jumper at the overtime buzzer for a 99-97 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

"I always like to silence the crowd on the road," Miller said. "That's what separates the good players from the great players. It was me against 19,000 people screaming and clapping. When I hit the shot, it was so quiet."

Pacers 99
Suns 97 (OT)

Miller took a midcourt inbound pass from Mark Pope, drove to the baseline and fired an arching shot over Jason Kidd that swished through as the horn sounded at Phoenix.

Miller, who didn't score in the first half, finished with 19 points as Indiana won its fifth straight on the road on coach Larry Bird's 41st birthday.

Danny Manning scored 25 points for the Suns, who rallied from a 10-point deficit in the final minutes to force overtime.

Cavaliers 84
Lakers 84

Kobe Bryant almost single-handedly brought the host Lakers back, scoring 14 of his 21 points in the first six minutes of the fourth quarter as Los Angeles cut a 19-point deficit to eight.

The Lakers got even closer when Elden Campbell hit a jumper and Eddie Jones made two free throws to cut Cleveland's lead to 83-79 with 2:18 remaining. But Person hit a clutch 3-pointer and the Cavs went on to win their sixth straight on the road.

Cleveland outbounded the Lakers 49-37.

76ers 93
Knicks 78

Allen Iverson scored 27 points and Jerry Stackhouse had 20 as the host 76ers ended a three-game losing streak.

Allan Houston had 27 points for the Knicks, who have lost three of their last four and four straight road games.

Patrick Ewing scored New York's first six points but was held to four the rest of the way and sat out the entire fourth quarter.

Pistons 93
Raptors 83

Reserve Jerome Williams had 20 points and 11 rebounds as the Detroit Pistons snapped a four-game road losing streak.

John Wallace scored 23 points for the Raptors, who extended their franchise-record losing streak to 16 games.

Grant Hill had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Pistons, while Damon Stoudamire had 21 points and nine assists for Toronto.

Bucks 97
SuperSonics 91

Terrell Brandon, who came to Milwaukee in a three-way trade that sent Vin Baker to Seattle, scored 20 points and the Bucks overcame Baker's 29 points to beat the SuperSonics.

Ray Allen also scored 20 for Milwaukee, while Armon Gilliam added 19 and Glenn Robinson 18.

Baker, traded to Seattle on September 25 in a deal that brought Brandon and Tyrone Hill to the Bucks from Cleveland, hit a baseline shot that pulled Seattle to 91-89 with 52 seconds left.

But Allen countered with a basket and Baker picked up his fifth and six fouls over the next 30 seconds.

Nuggets 100
Clippers 92

LaPhonso Ellis scored a season-high 21 points and the Nuggets overcame a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

Ellis sparked the rally with nine fourth-quarter points as the Nuggets outscored Los Angeles 30-14 in the final period and won for only the second time in 17 games.

Bobby Jackson added 17 points and Danny Fortson 15 for the Nuggets. Eric Piatkowski and Rodney Rogers each scored 18 for the Clippers, who lost their seventh straight on the road.

Kings 99
Warriors 84

Mitch Richmond and Corliss Williamson each scored 24 points as the host Kings snapped a six-game losing streak.

Williamson, held without a field goal in the first half, scored 10 points in a 1:57 span of the third quarter as the Kings broke a 45-45 tie and went ahead to stay.

Joe Smith scored 24 points for Golden State, which played its third game since star Latrell Sprewell was suspended for attacking coach P.J. Carlesimo.



THE DUNK STOPS HERE - The Knicks' Patrick Ewing blocks a dunk attempt by the 76ers' Clarence Weatherspoon.

Anderson, Molitor, Gaetti re-sign before arbitration deadline

NEW YORK (AP) - Brady Anderson, Paul Molitor and Gary Gaetti were among 10 free agents who returned to their former baseball teams Sunday, agreeing to new contracts before the midnight deadline to offer players salary arbitration.

Anderson and the Baltimore Orioles agreed to a \$31-million, five-year contract, ending weeks of negotiations between the outfielder and owner Peter Angelos.

Molitor, who had been negotiating with Baltimore and Toronto, changed his mind and agreed just before the deadline to a \$4.15 million one-year contract

with the Minnesota Twins, a raise of \$650,000. The 41-year-old designated hitter, who had considered retirement, is 12th on the career hits list at 3,178 and could move up to eighth next year.

Gaetti, a 39-year-old third baseman, agreed to a \$1 million, one-year contract with the St. Louis Cardinals. He can earn \$1.1 million more in performance bonuses, which would bring him up to \$2.1 million - matching his 1997 salary.

Seven other players also agreed to contracts before the deadline: San Francisco brought back a pair of pitchers, agreeing to a \$1.42 million, two-year contract with left-hander Rich Rodriguez and a \$550,000, one-year contract with right-hander Danny Darwin.

Anaheim and right-hander Rich DeLucia agreed to a \$400,000, one-year contract with a \$700,000 team option in 1999, and the Angels agreed to a minor-league contract with right-hander Mark Gubicza.

Toronto gave infielder-outfielder Juan Samuel a minor-league contract that would earn him a \$420,000 salary if he makes the team.

Milwaukee agreed to a minor-league contract with outfielder Darrin Jackson that calls for a \$550,000 salary if he's in the majors, plus the chance to make \$450,000 in performance bonuses.

Officials from the union and management agreed to stop the clock for an hour to give St. Louis and Andy Benes time to work out a new contract, but the team and the pitcher couldn't get it done in the additional time.

Benes and other free agents not offered salary arbitration cannot re-sign with their former teams until May 1. Those who were offered arbitration have until December 19 to accept or reject the offers and may negotiate with their former clubs through

January 8.

Of the players offered arbitration, four already have agreed to deals. But Baltimore offered it to Anderson. Detroit offered it to Willie Blair. Texas offered it to Brian and San Francisco offered it to Roberto Hernandez because their new contracts have not been finalized.

Others offered arbitration were outfielder Harold Baines by Baltimore; catcher Pat Borders by Cleveland; third baseman Dean Palmer by Kansas City; outfielders Jim Raines and Darryl Strawberry by the New York Yankees; catcher Rick Wilkins by Seattle; infielder Bill Ripken and pitcher Bobby Witt by Texas; outfielder Deion Sanders and pitchers Kent Mercker, Mike Morgan and Jose Rijo by Cincinnati; pitchers Mike Munoz and Bruce Ruffin by Colorado; pitcher Pete Smith by San Diego and reliever Dennis Eckersley by St. Louis.

The deadline also was significant for another reason: Draft pick compensation disappeared at midnight for those free agents not offered arbitration. Some teams didn't want to lose draft picks and are waiting until this week to sign players they've talked to.

The passing of the deadline is expected to clear the way for the New York Yankees to sign designated hitter Chili Davis, for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays to sign DH Paul Sorrento and third baseman Wade Boggs, and for the Cleveland Indians to sign right-hander Dwight Gooden.

Also, the San Diego Padres were said to be close to completing a trade with Florida to acquire Marlins ace Kevin Brown.



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